



THE INDEPENDENT

N° 8346

FRIDAY 11 JULY 1997

WEATHER: Warm (R 45p) 40p

TABLOID: 12 PAGES OF MUSIC

THE BAND THAT SWALLOWED THE STATES



IN THE TABLOID

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD GOES SHEEPISH



COMMENT PAGE 19

SUZANNE MOORE: I'M NO WORKHORSE



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Commando swoop on Serbs

SAS kill leading war-crime suspect in shoot-out and arrest underling

Marcus Tanner and Fran Abrams

British special forces arrested one of Bosnia's leading war-crime suspects and killed another yesterday in an operation that signals a dramatic about-turn in the attitude of the West towards arresting the men behind Bosnia's atrocities.

The commando-style operation bore all the hallmarks of a dress-rehearsal for the capture of the two principal figures in Bosnia's ethnic carnage - Radovan Karadzic and his army commander, General Ratko Mladic.

One British soldier was shot in the leg as troops, backed by SAS members, covered Sino Drijaca, former police chief of Prijedor, who ran murderous "detention" camps at Omarska and Keraterm in 1992.

An army spokesman in Banja Luka, where British troops serving under Nato's S-For (Stabilisation Force) are based, said the operation began yesterday at 9.30am. One group detained Milan Kovacevic, Drijaca's underling in the events of 1992, at the hospital of which he is director. While Kovacevic surrendered peacefully, the simultaneous move against Drijaca in another part of Prijedor ended in bloodshed.

"When S-For approached him and challenged him he opened fire," the spokesman said. "One of our soldiers was wounded. [Drijaca] was then killed when fire was returned in self-defence."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: "I'm very proud of the performance of the British forces in this operation. They have shown considerable courage."

Drijaca inspired terror among Bosnia's Muslims in the war that broke out in spring 1992. A leading figure in Karadzic's ultra-nationalist Serb

SDS party, he was given the key task of clearing out north-west Bosnia's non-Serb majority in April 1992, an operation he conducted successfully and with ruthless zeal. While several hundred thousand Muslims and Croats fled, thousands who failed to make it were rounded up and held at Keraterm and Omarska. When Western television cameras finally entered the camps in August 1992, releasing pictures of skeletal inmates that shocked the world, Drijaca told them: "Why are they so thin? It's Ramadan! They're all fasting."

Yesterday George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, told MPs that Drijaca may have

Inside
Net closes in on Karadzic and Mladic, page 13

been involved in some of the most horrific crimes committed there: there were claims that guards committed mass rapes of women, while men held there had claimed they had been forced to bite off other male prisoners' genitals for the amusement of their captors.

Last night Downing Street played down the political implications for Britain of the shootings, saying they were part of a more pro-active international stance rather than an indication that the government's policy would be tougher than the Tories'. Mr Robertson said the action had been sanctioned at the highest levels in Nato and that it had the specific authority of Javier Solana, secretary-general of the alliance, General George Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and Nato's ruling North Atlantic Council.

But the move against a man

of Drijaca's standing undoubtedly marks a seismic shift by the international community from passive observation to actively seeking out war-crimes suspects. UN and Nato forces in former Yugoslavia have had a mandate to arrest suspects since the 1995 US-brokered Dayton agreement but until recently declined to act on it.

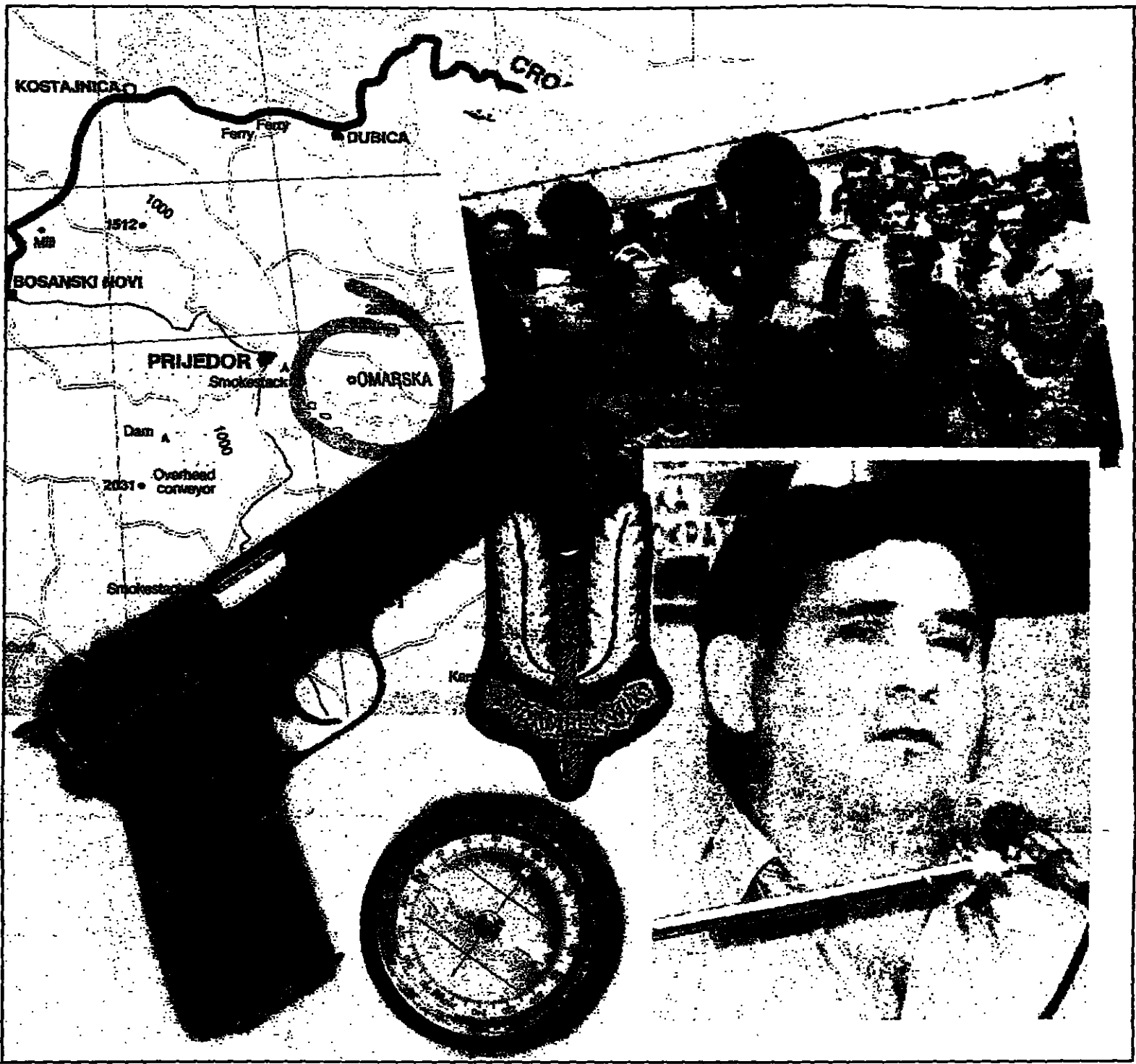
Yesterday's raid is a sign that the big powers involved in Bosnian peace-keeping - Britain, France and the US - have lost patience with a policy that left those responsible for the worst killings still in de facto control of the Bosnian Serb mini-state. "This is an indication... that we intend business," said Mr Robertson, "and none of these people will sleep any sounder in their beds as a result of this action. I wonder how they can sleep in bed at night at all."

Neither Drijaca nor Kovacevic were on the published list of indicted war-crimes suspects. But the Hague tribunal, under its new Canadian Chief Prosecutor, Louise Arbour, has drawn up - and urged peace-keepers to act on - a new and secret list of suspects.

Last night Kovacevic was flown from Bosnia and taken in a heavily guarded convoy to the side entrance of a Hague prison which houses the international tribunal's 24-cell block.

The tribunal's new, tough stance was "endorsed at this week's Nato summit in Madrid. Tony Blair and President Bill Clinton are believed to have discussed the issue at the summit, and on Wednesday Mr Clinton and Gen Joulwan issued strong statements against Karadzic."

"Our mandate is to arrest people who have been accused of war crimes and turn them over for trial," Mr Clinton said. The orders for the arrest of Drijaca and Kovacevic were almost certainly issued immediately after the summit.



Who dares arrests: Indicted war criminal Sino Drijaca (right) and the notorious concentration camp at Omarska which he ran. Photomontage: Julian Saul

Bank raises interest rates again

Diane Coyle and Anthony Bevin

The Bank of England increased interest rates by a quarter point to 6.75 per cent yesterday, the third rise in three months.

This made it only a matter of time before the cost of home loans goes up again, although stiff competition between mortgage lenders meant that not all of them passed on the increase to home-buyers immediately.

Abney National, with 1.6 million borrowers, raised its mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent, adding more than £7 to the

monthly payments on an average £50,000 repayment mortgage. The Cheltenham & Gloucester and TSB, with a million borrowers, are expected to announce the same increase this morning. Others, including the Halifax, Nationwide and Woolwich, were still reviewing their position last night.

In the face of criticism of both the interest rate move and the shortcomings of last week's Budget, the Chancellor and the Bank of England expressed their mutual support yesterday. Business groups said rising interest rates were boosting the

value of the pound and harming their export prospects.

The Confederation of British Industry said the Budget earlier this month should have been tougher on consumer spending, to reduce the need for the Bank to tighten interest rate policy. "Last week's Budget did not do enough to offset the immediate inflation pressure," said Adair Turner, the CBI director general.

But Gordon Brown blamed the need for a third-rate increase on the failure of the previous government to act fast enough to control the economy.

"I believe that the measures I have taken and the measures taken by the Bank of England are necessary measures to restore balance to an economy that was in danger of becoming seriously out of balance as a result of the mistakes of the previous government, which failed to take the action that was necessary," he told the Commons.

Another Treasury minister yesterday suggested that the Government was concerned to see a reduction in the value of the pound. Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, told the Commons that the strength of

the pound was the fault of the Tories' loose monetary policy. "We are very conscious of the impact of the failure to act on the part of the previous government on the strength of the pound," she said, "and indeed we are very conscious of the impact that has on exports."

Norman Lamont, the former Tory Chancellor who lost his seat in the May election, also defended the Bank's move. "The whole point of independence is to remove these decisions from politicians, because they normally duck them," he said.

Business reaction, page 21

Pink coats, red faces and a little blue language

Nicholas Schoon

The sun came out just as the number of hunting supporters massed in Hyde Park, London, yesterday hit the magic figure of 100,000.

After listening to fiery speeches and belting out a rousing chorus of "Jerusalem", the vast crowd of indignant country dwellers and blood-sports enthusiasts streamed back to the shires yesterday, content that they had themselves heard.

It was an electrifying, colourful show of resistance to the Worcester MP Michael Foster's Bill to ban hunting with hounds. Despite the scorn and threats heaped on anti-hunting townies, the atmosphere was good-natured and friendly.

But some speeches had a

note of menace which fitted ill with the rally's slogan, "Listen to us". Sam Butler, joint master of the Warwickshire Hunt, warned: "This is the last peaceful march and the last peaceful rally."

Sir Mark Prescott, a vocal supporter of hare coursing, pointed out that a mere 10,000 poll-tax rioters had eventually brought down Margaret Thatcher. "If it's a battle Parliament wants, it's a battle Parliament can have," he said.

But while the crowd shared that sentiment, yesterday their mood was as sunny as the weather. They came from all classes and corners of the nation, taking hundreds of their children out of school for the day - estate, forestry and farm workers, hunt servants, farmers and some proper country gents.

"It's a bit of a scrum, like a



Young blood: Alistair Newton, 12, has been hunting for four years. Photograph: Brian Harris

football crowd," remarked one lady, wearing a shirt with a striking pattern of sword hilts, to her friend as she squeezed into the VIP enclosure.

Reg Makin, aged 57, who farms near Leeds, came down on a coach with other supporters of the York and Ainsley South Foxhunt. He used to hunt, and he approves of the service the hunt offers in putting down sick farm animals and removing carcasses.

"It'll be a bloody sad day for the freedom of the country if

this Bill becomes law," he said. The majority opposed to hunting with bounds had "a lack of understanding of these things".

The greatest applause came for marchers who had walked all the way from Scotland, the north of England, Wales and the South-West, to make their protest. Some were weeping as they walked off the stage after being presented to the crowd.

Michael Heseltine, Lord Steel, Jeremy Irons and Frederick Forsyth were among the speakers. The strangest speech

of all came from David Bellamy, the environmentalist, who told the approving multitude: "I think you're bloody cruel. I couldn't do it [hunt] myself." But he recognised that country sports played a crucial role in conserving wildlife and landscapes.

William Hague, the Tory leader, popped into the VIP enclosure to register his support, but gave no speech. In fact, the day was made not by speeches but by the crowd, simply turning out and sensing its strength and cohesion.

Major bowled over

John Major's love of cricket has led him to buy a new home within bailing distance of the Oval in Kennington, south London, home of Surrey Cricket Club, where he is a member. Page 8



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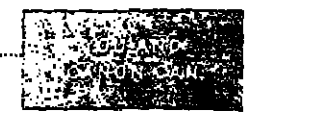


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news

significant shorts

Haughey's £1.3m secret prompts call for new inquiry

Dail Opposition parties are pressing for a new and wider inquiry into suspected large payments from businessmen to Charles Haughey, who served four terms as the Irish Prime Minister, in the wake of his belated admission that he did after all receive £1.3m in secret payments from Ben Dunne, the supermarket magnate.

Both John Bruton, the Fine Gael leader, and Dick Spring, the Labour leader, are demanding an inquiry which would go beyond the McCracken tribunal investigating donations made by Mr Dunne when he headed the family stores chain between 1983 and 1992. Fine Gael yesterday tabled a Dail motion seeking an inquiry into "all monies paid to Mr Haughey and in particular to examine whether any such payments were made in return, or in advance, of favours sought from or offered by Mr Haughey, ministers in his Government or the Fianna Fail party" he led from 1979 to 1992. Bertie Ahern, the present Taoiseach, earlier called the Haughey funding revelation "tragic and deplorable".

Alan Murdoch

Children injured in coach crash

Eighteen children and a coach driver were taken to hospital yesterday after a crash involving three coaches carrying primary school children, police said.

The injured were thought to have suffered bruising, whiplash and shock. No one was thought to be seriously hurt. The accident happened on the A217 in Banstead, Surrey, near the Belmont Rise roundabout. Scotland Yard said, adding that the three coaches contained about 130 schoolchildren, all pupils at Cheam Park Farm Primary School, North Cheam.

Cool joke on racing favourite



John McCrick, racing presenter for Channel 4, was attacked by an ice cream wielding punter while he was broadcasting live at Newmarket yesterday. The ice cream was pushed in his face as he was relaying the odds for the feature race, the Darley July Cup. His attacker then ran off. McCrick was momentarily stunned by the assault but then wiped the cream from his eyes and continued his broadcast.

Senior pay awards to go ahead

Judges, senior military officers and higher civil servants have survived Labour's threat to stop the second phase of their pay rise being implemented later this year.

Treasury ministers have found that they cannot halt the second tranche of this year's "top people's" pay award put in place by the then Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, as they had hoped while in Opposition.

However, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has not ruled out freezing senior salaries next year and will look at the issue again in the autumn.

Young offenders' jail condemned

Conditions for young offenders are so bad at one jail that they may be breaking the United Nations minimum standards for children, according to the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Sir David Ramsbotham also attacked the general treatment of young offenders in jail describing them as "appalling and 19th-century". His comments in a report published yesterday follow an inspection of Chelmsford jail in Essex, which houses a mixture of unconvicted and convicted young offenders aged 17 to 21, as well as adult prisoners. There are about 100 young offenders and more than 300 adults held in the prison.

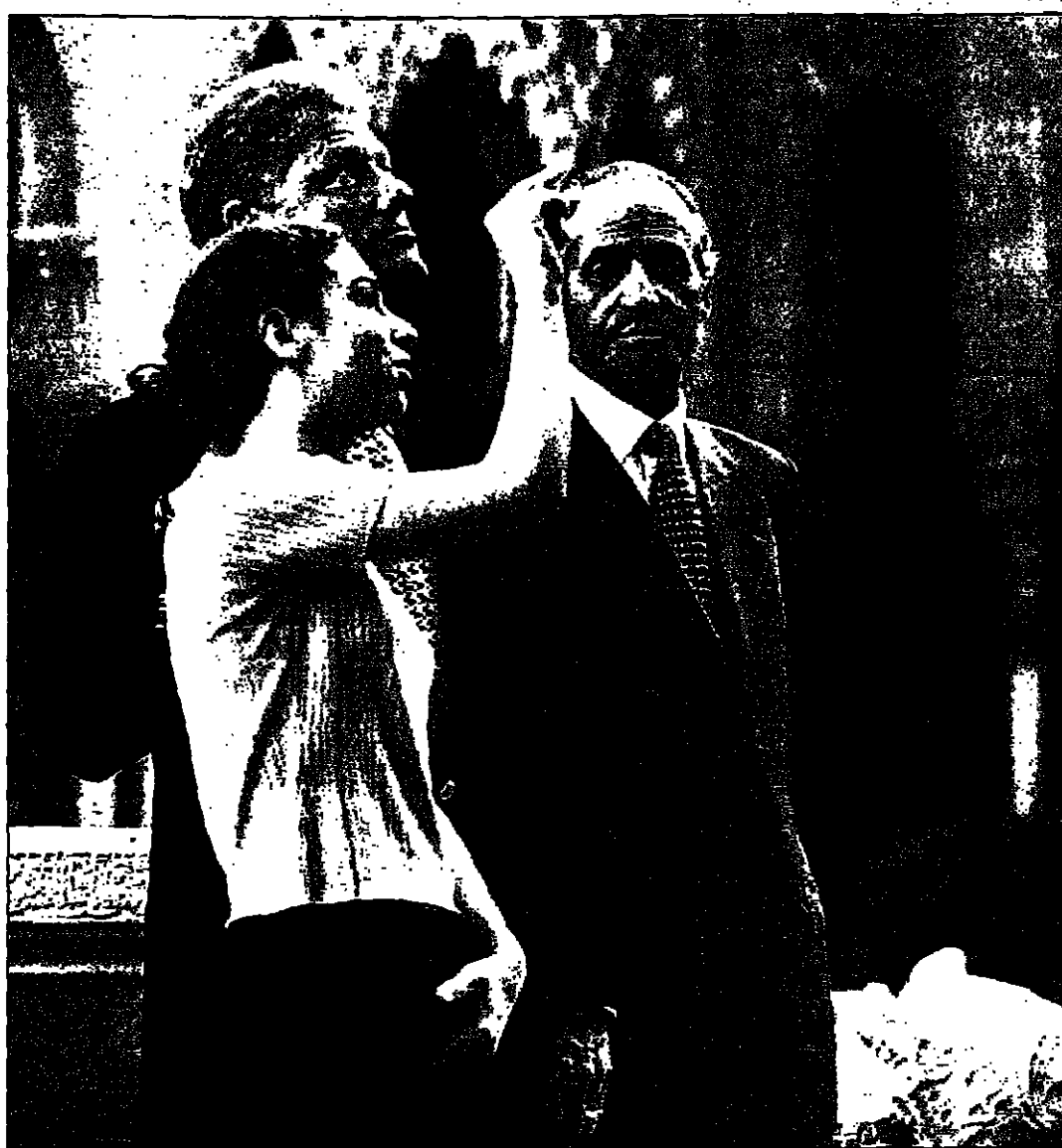
Jason Bennett

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people



Chelsea, President Clinton and King Juan Carlos admire the Alhambra Palace (Photograph: AP)

Clinton relives the memory of Spain's ultimate sunset

The documents were all signed, the security operation wound down, but Bill Clinton had one piece of business to complete before leaving Spain after this week's Nato summit: to visit Granada to show Hillary and Chelsea "the most beautiful sunset in the world".

As dusk fell, the US President stood with his wife and daughter to watch the last rays of the sun glow on the snowy peaks of the Sierra Nevada, turning the city violet and making the ancient Moorish Alhambra palace appear suspended in the air.

He had first visited the city 29 years ago, during his time as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and had been so stunned by its beauty that he resolved one day to return. This week, his wish was fulfilled.

"It was the same time in the evening, the same light, the same colours. Everything is the same, exactly as I remember it," said Mr Clinton, and added, with a little nostalgic half-smile: "Except me: I'm older." To journalists who tried to ask him questions, he said: "Don't work today - just watch."

The presidential party was whisked south in a US Air Force DC9, and King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofia and their son, Prince Felipe, accompanied the Clinton entourage on a tour of the Alhambra and a swift Andalusian supper. Their visit lasted barely four hours, but the city had been subject to security measures for nearly a week. Tourists were turned away on a picture-perfect day, sunny and hot, as the palace was closed to the public.

Hundreds of people lined the highways as the 20-plus cars in the presidential motorcade drove past olive groves with spectacular views of the snowcapped mountains on its way to the hilltop palace.

Inside the palace, Mr Clinton walked the marble floors where the Arab rulers of Granada held court amid bubbling fountains, cool reflecting pools and intricate artwork which make the Alhambra the greatest surviving jewel of Islamic civil architecture.

Prince Felipe accompanied Chelsea, who had joined her parents in Spain at the end of a European tour that followed her high school graduation, along with a friend, Nikki Davison.

There seemed little danger that Mr Clinton would forget such a trip - which he had specially requested to round off his summit - but just to make sure, the Mayor of Granada presented him with the keys of the city and a watercolour by a distinguished local artist of the view that had first captivated him in his student days.

Parts of the Alhambra date back to as far as the 9th Century, but it was built mainly between 1238 and 1358 when the Moors controlled much of what is now Spain.

With the Alhambra as its seat of government, Granada became the last Arab region to fall to Spain when King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella ended 500 years of Moorish rule in 1492.

Elizabeth Nash, Madrid

briefing

HEALTH

Children's intensive care to be reorganised in NHS

Children's intensive care units are to be reduced by up to half, to create fewer, larger centres, providing a higher quality of care. Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced yesterday. Units with fewer than about six beds will be merged in specialist centres staffed by doctors and nurses with experience in treating critically ill children.

No extra beds are to be provided in isolated units, and the care of critically ill children on general hospital wards should cease within a year, Mr Dobson said.

Under guidelines laid out in a report, *Paediatric Intensive Care: A Framework for the Future*, published today, the 280 children's intensive care beds in England will be centralised in about half the current 30 units. An extra £5m is to be provided over the next 12 months to implement the changes.

The plans - which follow complaints that hospitals were repeatedly turning away children because of a shortage of beds - will raise fears that patients will be put at risk by longer travelling times. Any delay in admission can jeopardise recovery.

Mr Dobson, who is to launch the report in Leeds today, said the establishment of lead centres in every area of the country would ensure that the 12,000 children who are seriously injured in accidents or fall critically ill have the best chance of recovery.

Retrieval teams of doctors and nurses trained in intensive care will accompany children transferred by ambulance from referring hospitals.

The National Co-ordinating Group on Paediatric Intensive Care, which produced the report, was set up by the health department last year after an inquiry into the death from a brain haemorrhage of ten year old Nicholas Geldard from Stockport, who was ferried between three hospitals in search of a bed.

Although the report does not specify a minimum number of beds for each unit, it says they must be of a sufficient size to sustain highly qualified full-time staff, working exclusively in intensive care. Each bed costs £250,000 a year to run.

Jeremy Laurance

NATURE

On the prickles of a dilemma

The old joke is true. Porcupines do it carefully - select a mate, that is - according to a report today. Research has shown that female porcupines go for the biggest, spiciest males, which have to prove their worthiness by fighting their rivals.

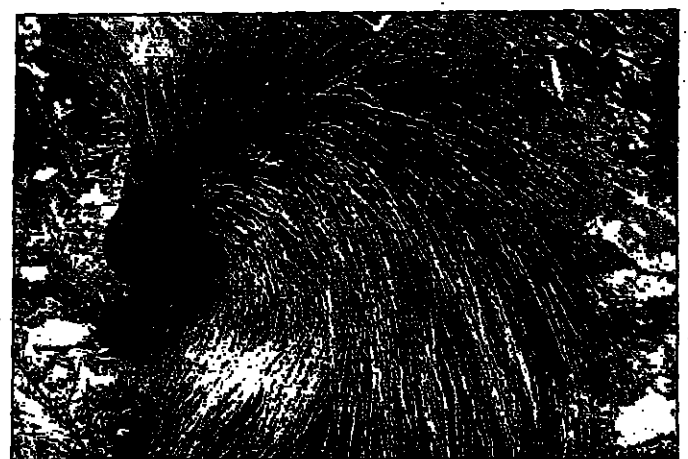
Scientists from the University of California at Davis have been studying the creatures in Nevada for five years. They believe that impressing females may have been as important a driving force in the evolution of porcupine quills as self defence.

It is suggested that female porcupines may opt for males who are the best fighters.

The researchers found that the male guards the female for three days, waiting for her to become sexually receptive. During this time the female makes cat-like calls, apparently designed to invite competition from other males.

Fights inevitably follow, during which males bite each other and slap each other with their muscular tails encrusted with small, sharp quills.

Researcher Rick Switzer told *New Scientist*: "After a fight the loser can have anywhere between 30 to 50 quills stuck in his face and chest. It must be extremely painful." However, during sex the females were extremely cautious, and only rarely got spiked.



UNIVERSITIES

Higher education boosts economy

Universities provide Britain with big bucks as well as brains, says a report commissioned by vice-chancellors. A study published yesterday, just a fortnight before the Dearing Committee publishes its conclusions on the future of higher education, highlights universities' contribution to the UK economy.

Though universities receive some £9bn annually in public funding for education and research, the higher education sector now generates business worth over £43bn a year, according to the report.

In total, universities provide jobs either directly or indirectly for more than 3 per cent of the total workforce. In 1995-6, higher education had an estimated international balance of trade surplus of £1.3bn, while the economy as a whole had a deficit of £5.5bn.

Vice-chancellors hope the study, *The Impact of Universities and Colleges on the UK Economy*, will help counter impressions of higher education as a perpetually cash-hungry sector and demonstrate how universities provide value for money. Lucy Ward

SOCIETY

Racist attitudes persist at work

A telephone hotline for people suffering racism at work was expected to hear from just a handful of people brave enough to call. In fact nearly 100 people phoned the line set up by the Trades Union Congress, some in a desperate state, telling of both subtle and overt abuse.

The results from the hotline, although limited, have created a worrying snapshot image of racism in the workplace. The TUC is now calling on employers to beef up their equal opportunities programmes in a bid to stamp out such abuse.

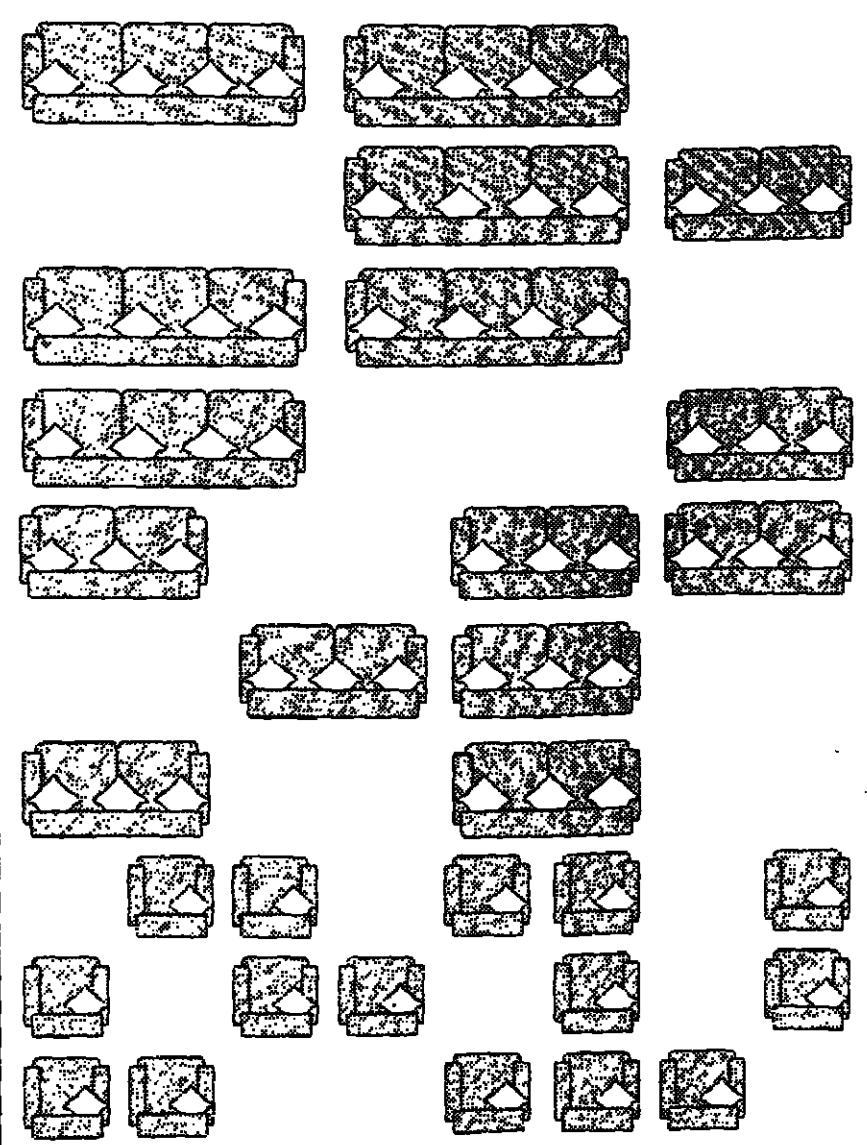
A report released today reveals that the callers' main complaints were excess discipline, lack of promotion and unfair overtime allocation.

As many as 14 per cent of callers said they were more likely to be disciplined than their white colleagues. 12 per cent said they were regularly overlooked for promotion while better jobs were being given to white workers with fewer qualifications and/or less service, and a further 12 per cent said overtime was allocated on the basis of race with white workers getting more overtime opportunity than blacks.

However, of most concern was the large number of callers who said they were the subject of direct racist abuse, and that when they complained to their bosses they were often told it was their fault and that they needed to make more of an effort to "fit in".

Matthew Brace

SUMMER SALE NOW ON



HEAL'S

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Fairytale romance that began with a cunning illusion

It was billed as a fairytale romance between one of the most beautiful women in the world and the cleverest magician on Earth.

She came to see one of his shows and he plucked her out of the audience at random to assist with one of his illusions. Within weeks, Claudia Schiffer and David Copperfield were an item. They were pictured holding hands in the most glittering spots in Europe, her left hand heavy with a sparkling diamond.

But as with all illusions, the reality is somewhat different. It would now appear that Ms Schiffer was, in fact, paid the sum of £12,500 to be pulled out of the audience.

The French magazine *Paris Match* claims that the meeting was a carefully calculated stunt, to boost Ms Schiffer's profile in the US and Copperfield's career in Europe.

"It was just a plot to dupe their loyal fans, and we've got the contracts to prove it," said the magazine.

Paris Match has published letters between the couple's agents to set up their first meeting at a show in Berlin in 1993.

"David seemed to pick Claudia out of the audience at random, but it was in



fact the first step in a devious and incredibly detailed plan," said the magazine.

"Claudia was paid £12,500 to be there and her first class tickets to Berlin, hotel suite, Mercedes limo and bodyguard were all paid for by David's PR company," it added.

The details of the contract were to have remained secret.

But there should be a happy ending to every fairytale, and this one turned out to be no exception. Their meeting may have been carefully planned but the couple really did fall in love and are now househunting.

Kate Watson-Smyth

First woman director for Royal Society

The Royal Society of Arts has appointed the first woman director in its 243-year history. Penny Egan, currently the RSA's programme development director, will take over next January, following the retirement of the current acting director, James Sanderson.

Mrs Egan, 46, joined the RSA 11 years ago as lecture secretary in charge of developing the Society's annual lecture programme.

"I am very grateful to the Society for originally employing me on a part-time basis when my children were young. I was able to be a mother and hold down a career at the same time. I have proved it is possible to do both jobs at once, and be successful," she said yesterday.

Since graduating from Leicester University, Mrs Egan has worked in arts administration and publicity at the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Crafts Council.

In 1992 she took on responsibility for the Society's arts programme and initiated the its advocacy programme, "The Arts Matter". In 1996 she administered the development of RSA projects including the current "Redefining Work" Programme.

Mrs Egan is proud of the RSA's continuous commitment to women's issues. "There have been women Fellows in the society since 1754 and the RSA has always recognised that we have a major role to play in the arts and business. Until now, no one was ready to see women as figures of authority and women were not coming through to these positions."

"The RSA is a unique organisation: independent, apolitical, multidisciplinary and with a Fellowship of over 21,000 it has the capacity to wield huge influence. My mission as Director will be to tell people what the RSA is and what we do."

Rachel Woollett

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Portraits that tell their own story



'I'd rather be thought of through what I'd written'
Alan Bennett

David Lister
Arts News Editor

The novelist PD James enjoyed it because she could sit and plot her next book. John Mortimer, creator of Rumpole, found it "absolute agony" because he still fondly believes he looks 19 years old.

The agony and ecstasy of having your portrait painted is described in a series of revealing interviews with celebrities carried out by the National Portrait Gallery.

The taped comments of the artists and their subjects will form part of a new sound guide to the gallery's collection which is being introduced next week.

It is not just the subjects of the portraits but also the artists who give the unique insights into the business of portrait painting. But it is the sitters who have their self-delusions most cruelly punctured.

John Mortimer found himself in a freezing studio with a painter "who wouldn't allow me to either read or talk to him, perched on top of pile of furniture with an inadequate sort of electric fire.

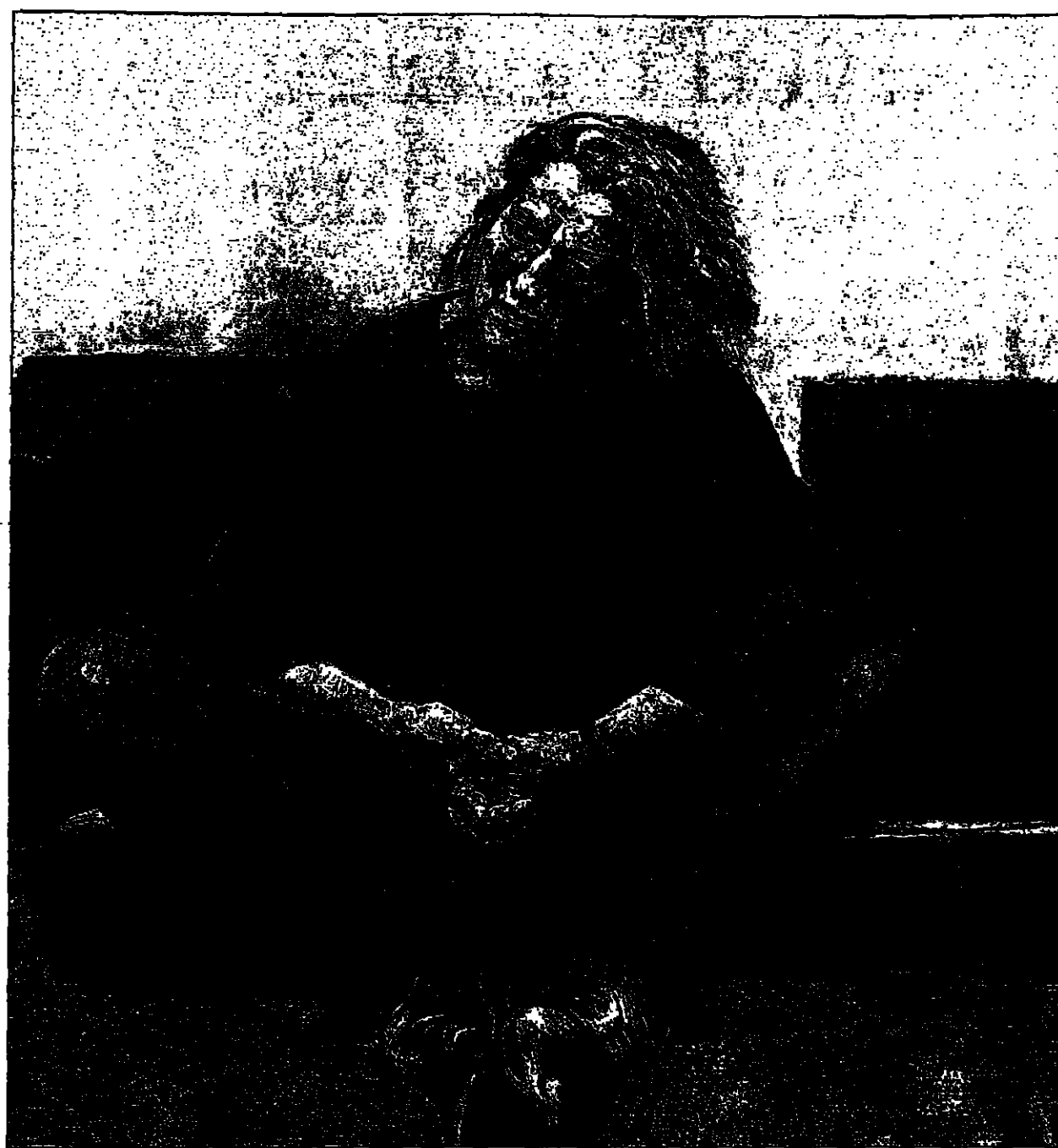
"And the only happy result of it was that I was able to use that place as a scene for a very unpleasant murder in a Rumpole story."

Of the portrait itself, Mortimer adds: "I find it very difficult to talk about because I avoid looking at myself in mirrors and I shave in the bath without a mirror and I only know that I've cut myself when the bath water goes pink. I have very little idea of what I look like. I imagine I look 19 and very thin and handsome, so the picture came as a bit of a shock to me."

Tai Shen, who painted him, also had a difficult experience, explaining: "It took forever. I think the head took about two months. I had to endlessly scrape it down and start again."

It took a while too for the great figurative artist Paula Rego to paint Germaine Greer.

The two of them listened to the whole of Wagner's Ring cycle during the six sittings. Ms Greer says of the result: "I think it's a wonderful picture. I know it doesn't make me look particularly good-looking,



'It's got this incredible flicker about it of energy which is her energy' *Germaine Greer on Paula Rego*

but I'm not good-looking so that's all right."

"I think it looks like a portrait of intelligence. It's got this incredible flicker about it of energy which is her energy more

than mine. But my image is invested with her power and her concentration."

Ms Rego remembers: "Very slowly, I held my breath and then, slowly, I began to do the

corner of her face, the pencil, pastel, crawled down the side of her face picking up the resemblance as it went along. It was like a fishing-net trapping the face."

Sir Bobby Charlton desired neither power nor a fishing net, but had a hankering to wear his football kit. However, it was eventually decided he was too old and should settle for a track



'I think there is a great intensity about my gaze'
PD James

suit. Stephen Hawking, the scientist and motor neurone disease sufferer, was asked by painter Yolanda Sonnabend to remove his glasses.

She says: "There was this lightness about him. A lightness and a clarity, and of course somebody whose mind knows no frontiers. So it was really getting an expression and I took his spectacles off, because of these wonderful piercing blue eyes, almost like a child actually."

PD James would think about the plot of her next crime thriller during her sittings.

She says now, using the language of the thriller writer: "I think it's slightly sinister, yes. And there is a great intensity about it. I think there is an intensity about my gaze."

"You do feel that things are happening beyond that door, a sense really of menace in the air."

The painter Maggi Hambling gave her self-portrait three arms and three hands "one for everything you need as an artist. I mean one for the brush, one for the cigarette and one for the drink."

But for Alan Bennett the whole process was torture. "I'd rather be thought of through what I'd written, rather than through my own physical presence," he says, "because I think it's such a dismal physical presence most of the time."

It was Bennett who addressed the question of portrait painting definitively in his fictional dialogue between The Queen and Sir Anthony Blunt, her surveyor of pictures in his play *A Question of Retribution*.

Blunt assures her that portrait painters "are seldom standard bearers of the avant garde Ma'am."

She responds: "They would hardly be painting me if they were. One doesn't want two noses."

"Mind you, that would make one no more unrecognisable than some of their efforts. No resemblance at all. Sometimes I think it would be simpler to send round to Scotland Yard for an identikit. Still I can understand it when they get me wrong, but some of them get the horse wrong too. That's unforgivable."

Career on track with railway degree

Esther Leach

The first graduate in railway studies yesterday shrugged off the notion that train enthusiasts were "sad anoraks".

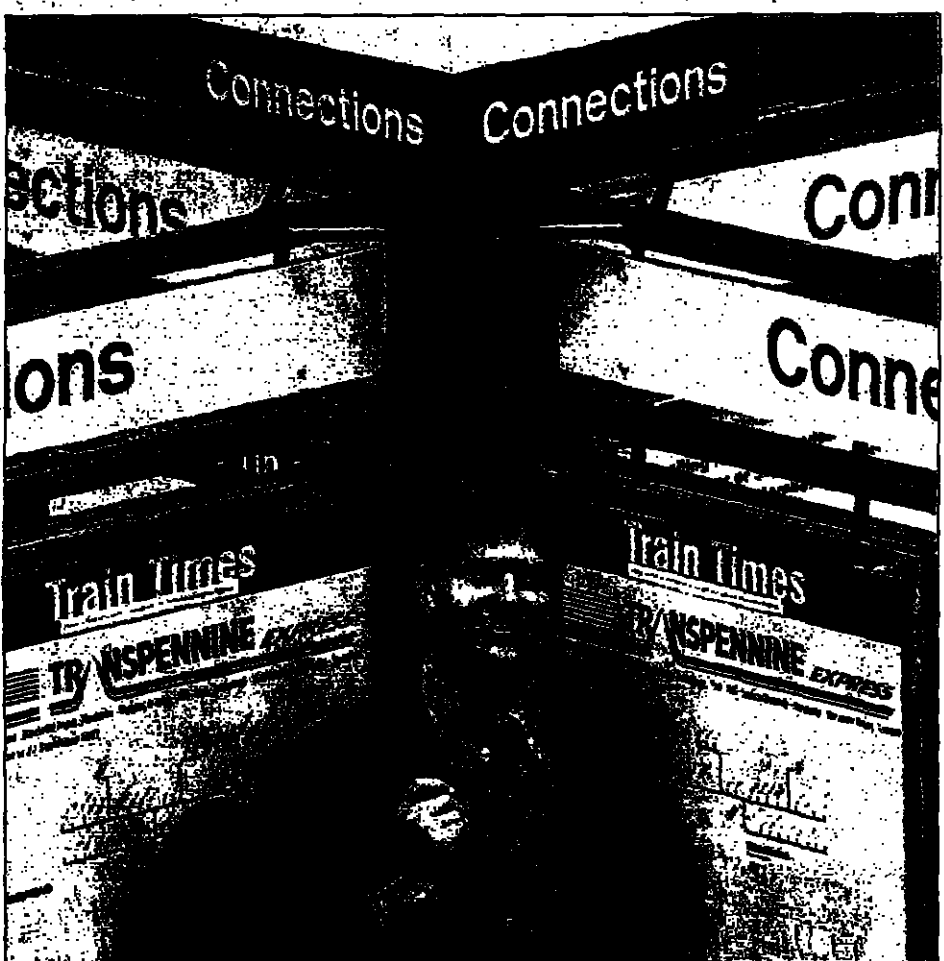
Phillip Butterworth, 31, who has gained an MA from the Institute of Railway Studies at York University, said he was romantic about railways and rail travel.

It was his passion which took him away from his home in Sydney, Australia, for two years to study the running of railway workshops in Swindon for his degree.

"I have a love for trains, especially steam locomotives," he said, as he sat in the management centre of York station. "I like the idea of something massive such as a steam locomotive moving through the landscape."

He added: "I'm interested in the social and cultural history of railways and how railway workshops of the 19th century operated. At one time there were more than 14,000 people working at Swindon."

He said he there were lessons to learn from the way people with so many different skills worked closely together as a team.



The graduate: Phillip Butterworth at York station yesterday. Photograph: John Houlihan/Guzzell

Mr Butterworth, who discovered the degree course in 1995 in the small ads columns of a railway fan magazine, admitted to standing at the end of platforms watching trains come and go, although he said he did not actually take numbers.

He acknowledged the "sad" reputation which seems to haunt train spotters and railway enthusiasts and laughed as he added: "Yes, I do have an anorak. I think train spotters have an image problem, but they do an important job,

recording details of trains today. They provide an independent record which is invaluable, especially if official records were somehow destroyed or failed."

Mr Butterworth plans to return to Australia to study for a PhD at New South Wales University before launching a career in lecturing about railways.

Professor Colin Divall, head of the Institute of Railway Studies, said he was delighted Mr Butterworth had succeeded in his studies.

"He wanted to do the course so much he moved over to England and threw himself into the work. I hope he is the first of many IRS graduates, in fact we are recruiting students now for an October term start," said Professor Divall.

Nine other students have also passed their Certificate in Railways Studies after a two-year part-time course.

The degree course is a joint venture between the IRS, the York Railway Museum and York University.

Archers face up to six-day week

Paul McCann

Eddie Grundy, the laziest man in the English countryside, may find he has more than a new dairy parlour to get up and running if Radio 4 bosses get their way.

The fictitious Eddie, whose indolence almost cost him his farm on *The Archers* earlier this year, will find himself working six days a week if a plan by James Boyle, controller of Radio 4, to add another episode to

the radio soap is approved. Mr Boyle, who joined Radio 4 last year, is at present conducting a review of all of the station's output and is reported to be considering putting the extra episode on at weekends. This comes on top of previous plans to extend *The Archers* omnibus edition on Sundays so it can at last re-play all of the previous week's episodes.

If it is a sop to farmers who have been outraged by Mr Boyle's leaked plans to scrap

Farming Today, it may not work. The everyday tale of farming folk may have started off as an attempt to get farmers to grow more food, but its three million listeners a week are now more likely to live in cities.

An extension of *The Archers* would follow the pattern followed by television in recent years where schedulers have sought to boost listeners by adding extra episodes of *Coronation Street*, *Emmerdale* and *EastEnders*.

If true it also seems to illustrate that Mr Boyle is following a policy of "more of a good thing" to bring the station to more listeners. He has proposed extending Radio 4's other most popular programme *Today*, which is why *Farming Today* may go.

There has also been talk of Mr Boyle being really radical and extending *Today* all the way through to lunch time as an "umbrella" strand over other programmes.

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No relation: Neanderthal Man's distinct facial characteristics. Above right: In a family group. Photographs: Natural History Museum

How modern man won the biggest battle for his life

Kathy Marks

Despite evidence to the contrary in rugby clubs and City wine bars, modern humans are not descended from Neanderthal Man, according to scientific research published today.

With his stocky build, sloping forehead and massive beetle brows, this primitive hominid never appeared the most attractive of ancestors. Now the first analysis of DNA material from a Neanderthal skeleton provides powerful evidence that he was part of a separate evolutionary branch.

The results are a considerable boost to the anthropological theory that human beings originated in Africa about 200,000 years ago and then colonised Asia and Europe, displacing other species. But they will infuriate proponents of the rival hypothesis, that our forefathers left Africa about two million years ago and migrated to other continents, where they evolved into *Homo Sapiens*. Heated and at times vitriolic debate has raged between the two camps for the past decade.

The research, which is published in the American science journal *Cell* was carried out by a team at the University of Munich's Zoological Institute. Their subject was a skeleton fossil discovered in the Neander Valley, near Düsseldorf, in 1856, and regarded as the prototype Neanderthal specimen. The



scientists took a tiny fragment of bone from the fossil, which is estimated to be between 30,000 and 100,000 years old. For the first time, they performed the highly difficult task of retrieving a genetic sample from an extinct species. The DNA that they analysed was so different from that of modern humans that any direct link between us and Neanderthal Man appears to be ruled out.

Professor Svante Paabo, head of the Munich team, told a press conference in London yesterday that although the two hominids co-existed in Europe and the Middle East for a period, their last common ancestor probably dated from more than half a million years ago. While

the precursors of modern humans thrived and flourished, Neanderthal Man evolved separately, reaching an evolutionary dead-end about 30,000 years ago. "The results clearly lend support to the theory that we all came out of Africa quite recently in history," said Professor Paabo.

Chris Stringer, of the Natural History Museum, one of the world's leading palaeontologists, hailed the work of the Munich scientists as a *tour de force*. "In palaeontological terms, this is the equivalent of landing the Pathfinder on Mars and getting it to work," he said. "The Neanderthals were very human-like, but that does not make them our ancestors."



Survival of the fittest: Although Neanderthals and *Homo Sapiens* co-existed, a direct link appears to be ruled out

Straw seeks quick way to sack corrupt police officers

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

The Government is examining ways of improving the scrutiny and punishment of dishonest police officers. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, confirmed yesterday.

It is understood that he is sympathetic towards chief constables' pleas for a less rigorous requirement in the level of proof for an officer to

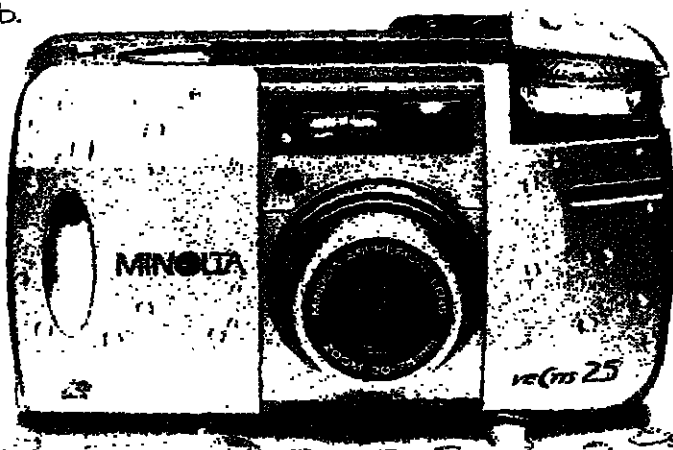
be dismissed. Mr Straw's comments follow an interview in *The Independent* in which Edward Crew, the Chief Constable of West Midlands police, revealed that he knew of corrupt police officers in his force but was powerless to dismiss them because of protective practices. He said: "There are people working in this force that wouldn't be employed by Sainsbury's... I have officers in this force who should not be serving police officers. If we were assessing their standards of behaviour to the standard required of other employers, these people would not be working."

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that it was carrying out a review of the procedures. Mr Straw said: "Corrupt officers have no place in a modern and accountable police service. It is crucial that we have a police discipline system which has the confidence and support of the public, and which, at the same time, protects police officers from malicious accusations. I am carefully considering the representations I have had from the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), the Police Federation and other interested parties about changes to police disciplinary procedures."

Mr Straw has also expressed concern at the number of police officers taking early retirement on medical grounds while under investigation. Police chiefs in England and Wales want the standard of proof that an officer is guilty of corruption or gross incompetence to be made less onerous than "beyond reasonable doubt". Civil cases, industrial tribunals and disciplinary hearings involving police officers in Scotland all use the lesser standard of "balance of probability". Where there is evidence of gross malpractice, they

also want the power of instant dismissal. Paul Whitehouse, Chief Constable of Sussex, and Acpo spokesman, said the proposal was intended to make it easier for senior officers to address all forms of police misbehaviour. "We should be able to deal effectively with the very small number of officers who do not come up to the high standards required."

The independent Police Complaints Authority has backed calls for change. But the Police Federation, which represents rank-and-file officers, bitterly condemned the move. Its vice-chairman Ian Westwood accused Acpo of using the election of the new Government to reopen the issue having previously declared itself satisfied with the regulations. "We are furious. We believe that it is at best opportunistic and at worst bad faith," he said.



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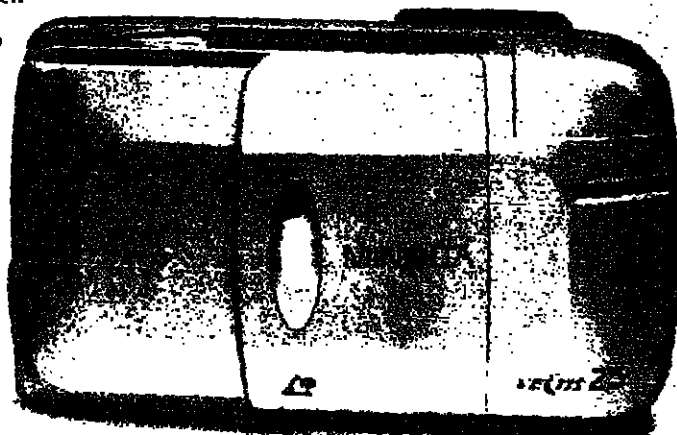
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The fairer sex takes a swing for golfing equality

Rigid attitudes have kept Britain's golf clubs a male preserve. Jojo Moyes reports

On the pleasant green fairways of Langley Park Golf Club in Beckenham, Kent, the ladies agreed: *Coronation Street's* ratings must be going down. Why else would the actor Johnny Briggs, better known as the chauvinist Mike Baldwin, opine in a magazine that women golfers were "an abomination ... take liberties, don't know the rules ... and take over everything like cockroaches".

"You can't take it seriously," said Maureen Fitchens, who has played golf for 10 years. "We know that attitude exists - there's probably one of him in every club - but it says more about him than it does about women golfers." Her friend, 23-year-old Michelle Donovan, who plays off 17 after just two years, agreed. "I laughed when I saw it, I wouldn't take him seriously for a minute. I think they're very sad." She added: "It's very much an age thing as well. Some of these men just feel threatened."

But some of them don't need to. Whatever Mr Briggs' feelings, Britain's golf clubs are still overwhelmingly a male preserve, according to players. They may agree with equality in theory, but practice was quite another matter.

Michael Lunt, secretary of the 1,300-member Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course in Richmond, southwest was keen to stress the admirable qualities of its 350 lady members. "By and large ladies behave extremely well on the course, equally as well as men if not better," he affirmed. But this did not necessarily mean they got equal access to



Par for the course: Kent golfer Michelle Donovan laughed at the sexist comments made about women golfers by the *Coronation Street* actor Johnny Briggs (below). Photograph: David Rose



from. One golfing association had told her she couldn't join "as they didn't give women's prizes". "I said 'what do you give, balls?'"

She said things have changed, but painfully slowly. Part of the problem is the self-perpetuating nature of the clubs. "There are a lot of men in golf clubs who have very rigid attitudes and unfortunately golf clubs attract these sorts of people. They reinforce each other by including people who join the club who think as they think. They don't invite radicals."

The other problem is the women themselves. "The problem is that a lot of them won't make a fuss. The club is their life and their husband is probably paying the subscription. If they rock the boat he gets it, you know. 'What's your wife doing creating trouble?'"

this course. "They don't have equal access. They're not allowed in the men's bar, there's a mixed bar. Otherwise they have pretty well equal rights. There are some restrictions on one of the courses which they can't play on, but in my opinion considering they pay two-

thirds of what men pay here they get the best deal on any course," he said. "I know some people would like to vote on club matters at the AGM but there are others that are happy with the status quo. They run their own operation in fact." So significant numbers of women didn't want to

change things? "I wouldn't know if significant numbers wanted to change things."

According to Liz Kahn, a golf writer and author of *The LPGA: The unauthorised version*, the Royal Mid-Surrey is far from unusual. "In most clubs in the country most women

don't have the vote, don't have access to all the bars, they don't pay the same subscription - even if they want to - and they are restricted at weekends. A lot of these clubs seem to work on the basis that women will play on weekdays after they've done the housework," she said.

On the Continent, she said, clubs were completely mixed and equal - "they can't believe what goes on here." Mrs Kahn, who has been writing on golf for nearly 30 years, said she was known as "the Suffragette" on account of the number of men-only areas she had been "removed"

Second wave set to join BA stoppage

Barrie Clement and Randeep Ramesh

British Airways last night faced the prospect of further stoppages by 9,000 ground staff after a second day of action by cabin crew caused severe disruption to flights at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Although the airline claimed that it had managed to get 20 per cent more flights into the air from Heathrow, that still only saw 99 services operating - a paltry chunk of the 200-plus take-offs in the timetable.

Amid the chaos of the three-day strike by stewards and stewardesses, leaders of BA's airport workers were also considering whether to set the date for the first of a series of walk-outs in protest at the sell-off of the airline's catering division.

Union sources said the 1,400 workers - also with the Transport & General Workers Union - directly affected by the planned sale had thrown out fresh proposals from management giving additional guarantees about their terms and conditions after the division is sold off.

Although BA has trained managers to take over the duties of ground staff and recruited alternative personnel to service aeroplanes, industrial action by a second group of employees would cause far worse disruption. BA has already been forced into hiring aircraft, replete with crews to staff key services.

Operations manager Michael Street said that BA had chartered seven aircraft, complete with crews, to help combat the strike - and would have brought in more if they could have done.

George Ryde, the union's national officer for the civil aviation industry, was "surprised" over BA's decision to lease seven planes yesterday.

"Many of their own aircraft have been left unused because of the strike. The only reason for leasing others would be for their cabin crew," Mr Ryde said.

The airline claimed that more staff turned up for work and 20 per cent more flights got away than Wednesday.

However, the number of stewards and stewardesses phoning in sick increased to 1,700, leading to cancellations at Heathrow and Gatwick.

BA also warned that flights would continue to be hit after the end of the strike on Saturday morning.

Executives said they had run all the services they had planned yesterday and hoped to increase flights by 20 per cent again today.

They pointed out that the airline had managed to get five domestic services off the ground and increase the number of long-haul flights from Heathrow from 22 on Wednesday to 25 yesterday.

The TGWU, which represents the cabin crew, pointed out that the same proportion of Heathrow flights were grounded yesterday as on Wednesday.

Behind the scenes, the Acas conciliation service kept in contact with both sides in an attempt to solve the cabin-crew dispute, which centres on the imposition of a pay package.

Management continued to hint privately that it might be prepared to consider union proposals to save £42m, but the union was sceptical about the seriousness of their intentions.

The union believes the company wants to be seen as "doing something" to resolve the conflict before its annual general meeting next Tuesday.

Company sources, however, said that they were serious about seeking a solution and that the union had so far been obstructive.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, took the "very exceptional step" of writing to the airline's non-executive directors, urging them to use their influence to encourage substantive negotiations.

'His message was clear: come back or face the sack'

British Airways has repeatedly denied staff and union claims that they had been "bullied" or "intimidated". A senior stewardess, fearful of being dismissed, gives her reply anonymously:

"I have been a stewardess for more than a decade. Let me say I was very proud of working for British Airways. But recent events have made me think again. The manner in which I and many of my friends have been treated is nothing short of disgusting."

Last Saturday I was called at home by a manager. It was a very threatening, intimidating conversation. I was asked whether I would be reporting to work on Wednesday this week. I said no. Things turned nasty. I was asked whether I realised I could lose my job. I was told I could be sued for financial loss to the company.

I had been watching the women's championship at



Frightened striker: Once proud, now disgusted

Wimbledon. Although I saw the rest of the match, I could not remember a stroke. His message was clear: come back or face the sack.

Many of my friends in BA have sought medical help. The stress of dealing with managers has made them ill. I feel sick just thinking about the tactics that I, and others, have had to endure. There are few crew who, thanks to the management style, have a good word for Mr Ayling.

Staff have all received letters which are designed to scare. These tell those staff on strike they will get no promotion until the year 2000, will not be paid any basic pay until BA obtains "full value for services", and lose staff travel concessions until the end of March 2000. Members on strike will have letters "placed on file".

Is this anyway to run an airline? Staff and management disagree about pay and conditions. We have voted overwhelmingly for this action.

That is our right. Is it Mr Ayling's to demoralise and destroy crew?

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politics

RUC chief calls for restraint on Twelfth

David McKillick
Ireland Correspondent

A flurry of meetings took place in Belfast and Derry yesterday in attempts to avoid confrontation at tomorrow's controversial Twelfth of July Orange parades in the two cities.

In an unusual move, RUC chief constable, visited the Orange Order's headquarters in Belfast for discussions on the parade scheduled to pass through the Catholic Lower Ormeau district of the city.

His visit was seen as an indication of the seriousness of concerns that trouble could flare in the area in the wake of last weekend's Drumcree march, which generated widespread nationalist anger. Mr Flanagan said: "This was one of a whole series of ongoing meetings to discuss aspects of Saturday's parades. Everyone of any influence whatever should do all that they can to urge restraint."

Among those involved in the talks was Lord Molyneux, the former leader of the Ulster Unionist Party. In the Lower Ormeau, meanwhile, Canon Peter McCann said there was

"terrible anxiety" since Catholics believed the authorities intended to force the parade through the area.

In Derry, several dozen representatives of political parties, community groups and the churches attended a meeting convened by Martin Bradley, the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party mayor, aimed at reaching agreement on Saturday's march. But representatives of the Orange Order and the Unionist parties did not take part, so no formal accommodation has yet emerged. Mr Bradley said no more meetings were planned, but his door remained open for face-to-face talks.

"We will still try to hope the Orange Order comes forward and offer some solutions, but we just don't know," he said.

But Alan Lindsay, the city's Orange grand master, dampened hopes that he would meet the mayor, and said the group still planned to press ahead with the parade despite the threat of violence.

The Catholic Bishop of Derry, Bishop Seamus Hegarty, appealed for calm and asked everyone to refrain from acts of violence or inflammatory



Tension rising: A heavy police and military presence is building on the streets of Belfast

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

words which could inflame the present tense situation. His advice was, however, instantly spurned by loyalist and republican paramilitaries. The Irish National Liberation Army warned parents to be careful with their children, declaring: "In the days to come, our units may be called upon

to actively engage loyalist and crown forces gunmen. It is imperative that no civilians are endangered or hamper these operations."

The loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters, meanwhile, warned republicans to desist from attacks on Protestant areas, saying there had been attacks on

families and businesses and on Orange halls. The UFF said it would "protect loyalist areas from republican aggression." A loyalist died earlier this week when a UFF bomb exploded prematurely in South Belfast.

A 14-year-old West Belfast boy hit by a plastic bullet on Sunday night was

improving slightly today after being moved out of intensive care. Meanwhile, a Shankill teenager, Craig McCann, who was shot in the shoulder by a gunman near Belfast's "peace line" on the same night, was progressing well at Belfast City Hospital.

Labour MEPs reject rule change

Ian Burrell

Labour members of the European Parliament have rejected attempts by the party's Millbank headquarters to impose a new code of discipline to limit them in criticising party policy.

The new code, which had been accepted by the Parliamentary Labour Party, would have made MEPs liable to being disciplined for breaching a commitment to "do nothing that brings the party into disrepute."

But at the conclusion of their annual general meeting in Brussels this week, Labour MEPs refused to agree to the changes on the grounds that they were open to too wide an interpretation.

Alex Falconer, the MEP for Mid-Scotland and Fife, said: "We currently have standing orders which serve as a disciplinary code and have worked very well for us for 10 years."

Last month, it emerged that Millbank officials had compiled a "charge sheet" of offences said to have been committed against the party by Hugh Kerr, the left-wing MEP for Essex West and Hertfordshire East.

Among the "misdeemeanours" was an allegation that Mr Kerr heckled Tony Blair at a private reception at last year's party conference in Blackpool. The charge sheet further alleged that Mr Kerr heckled Margaret McDonagh, a senior party official.

Labour officials said later that the file on Mr Kerr had been compiled in order to rebut criticisms if the MEP defected to Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party, something he indicated that he might do.

Last night, Mr Kerr said he was delighted by the decision of fellow MEPs to reject the new code of discipline, which was lost on a vote of 23 to 21.

"You would expect those on the left to reject it but there was a group in the centre who thought that the disrepute clause was a bit of a catch-all phrase," he said.

"It could be interpreted into what they want it to mean. People felt it was carrying things a little too far."

Labour sources pointed out that the vote was close and that the AGM had been generally positive. "It's the first time that we've had MEPs working with a Labour government and as a result of the meeting the liaison with the party and the government will improve," said a source in party headquarters.

Tories cry foul as Bill rushed

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Ann Taylor and Gillian Shephard clashed yesterday in the Commons over the Government's decision to impose the guillotine on the Finance Bill putting the Budget into effect.

The Leader of the Commons and her Tory shadow were involved in a heated row after Mrs Shephard accused the Government of acting in a high-handed manner by steamrolling the Budget legislation through the House.

Mrs Shephard claimed that it was unprecedented to force the Budget through the Commons committee stage within 12 days of the second reading, which took place yesterday. She protested that it left the City institutions too little time to make representations about the detail in the Budget.

The Tories suspect that the Government's haste is partly motivated by a desire to avoid

a campaign building up from the City against the Budget tax changes which will hit pensions.

"There has never been a gap of only 12 days between the publication of the Finance Bill and the committee stage. Under the Conservatives, that gap was sometimes 84 days or over 100 days. The reason is to give sufficient time for the institutions to have an input but they are preventing that from happening," said Mrs Shephard.

With an overwhelming Labour majority, the Opposition has little hope of changing the timetable for the Budget legislation.

Mrs Taylor strongly defended the decision to press ahead with the Finance Bill, after announcing in the Commons that the House will rise for the Summer recess on 31 July. The time was shortened by the timing of the general election, which left Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, little option but to steer the bill through at the double.

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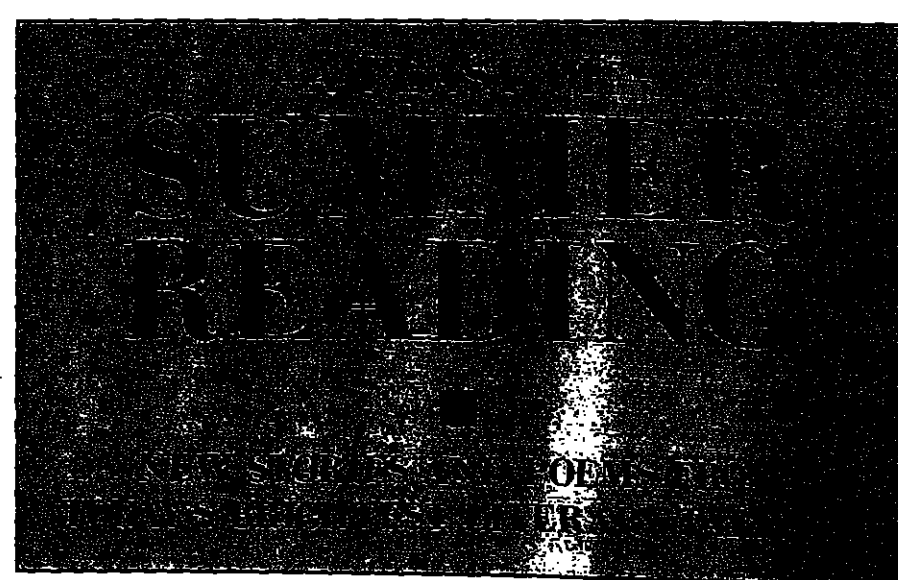
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IN THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY REVIEW

From exile in Jersey, a 92-year-old millionaire prepares to do battle for the land of his fathers

Big money is behind campaign against Welsh devolution. Ian Burrell reports

A 92-year-old multi-millionaire living in tax exile in Jersey is attempting to block devolution for Wales by making his fortune available to campaigners opposing a Welsh assembly.

Sir Julian Hodge, a financier who grew up in the south Wales valleys, said an assembly would be an enormous burden to taxpayers, add unnecessary bureaucracy, and threaten Wales's representation at Westminster.

His announcement yesterday is the most significant setback to the campaign for a Welsh assembly since Llew Smith, the Labour MP for Blaenau Gwent, said that he had been threatened with expulsion from the party if he continued to speak out against devolution.

Yet pro-devolutionists were quick to seize on Sir Julian's intervention as evidence that the debate had turned into a battle between people living in Wales and Welsh exiles.

Daran Hill, national organiser of the "Yes" campaign, based in Cardiff, said: "The 'No' campaign at the moment consists of Llew Smith, the Conservatives, Viscount Tonypantry and a tax exile. It's scarcely representative of Welsh life."

Peter Hain, Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office, said Sir Julian's intervention was unlikely greatly to affect the referendum vote in September. "The Yes campaign has young active businessmen and women, pop stars, politicians, sportsmen and women and represents a cross-section of opinion on Wales," he said. "Whereas this seems to be a geriatric campaign."

Sir Julian, a former railway clerk who clawed himself up to be chairman of the Bank of Wales and is worth £60m, was yesterday suffering with asthma and too ill to elaborate on his battle plan.

Earlier he said: "I love Wales and



Speaking out: Sir Julian Hodge at home with his dogs - 'I don't think an assembly will be good for the nation' Photograph: Western Mail

have done everything possible to promote it and everything Welsh, but I don't think an assembly will be good for the nation from a business point of view.

"Who's going to pay the cost of it - and what good is it going to do?"

Sir Julian ran into controversy last year when he offered to contribute up to £5m towards the cost of building a new Roman Catholic cathedral in Cardiff.

The plan was rejected by Archbishop John Aloysius Ward on the grounds that the present building was adequate.

Others were more critical of the offer. The Very Reverend Administrator of St David's, Fr Bernard Whitehouse, 70, said: "Sir Julian is a generous man, I'm sure. But would it be a Roman Catholic cathedral he is proposing or a Hodge cathedral?"

Sir Julian, who is a socialist and long-standing friend of Viscount Tonypantry, the former Commons speaker, wants the anti-devolutionist campaign to be non-political.

The Yes campaign is to be stepped up tomorrow with a conference addressed by Ron Davies, Secretary of State for Wales. Also speaking at the conference will be Viscount St David's, the first senior

Tory to come out in favour of devolution.

Government sources said the Prime Minister would be throwing his weight behind the Yes campaign, with several visits to Wales during the coming months.

Techniques used by Labour's Millbank staff during the election campaign are also to be deployed in Wales as part of a huge publicity drive in favour of devolution.

Blair to make 30 peers to tackle Tory bias

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair will create 30 life peers as the first step to tackling the in-built Tory majority in the House of Lords, to strengthen the Government's forces for a confrontation with Tory peers over devolution for Scotland and Wales.

Labour leaders in the Lords believe they will still be under strength after the list of 30 working Labour peers is produced at the end of the month, and the creation of more working Labour peers will be needed.

Labour's case will be strengthened by John Major's resignation honours list, which will create 12 new Tory peers, who are expected to include the former Cabinet ministers David Hunt, Ian Lang, Roger Freeman, Norman Lamont, and possibly Sir Marcus Fox, the former chairman of the 1922 Committee of Tory MPs. William Waldegrave, Michael Portillo, and Malcolm Rifkind, who all lost their seats in the general election, are understood to have turned down peerages.

William Hague, the Conservative Party leader, has nominated three more Tory peers for the working list, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, has nominated 12 peers. One senior Liberal Democrat source said: "The Tories have been asking for it because they have created lots more life peers than Labour over the past 18 years. There is nothing unconstitutional about this. In fact, Labour need far more."

Lord Richard, the Labour leader in the House of Lords, has told the Prime Minister that he desperately needs more troops to cope with the weight of business now facing the Lords.

Labour estimates that of the 1,045 lords eligible to attend in 1995-96, they had 111 peers (96 life peers and 15 hereditary), the Tories had 466 (146 life and 320 hereditary), and the Liberal Democrats 56 (32 and 24). On the cross benches there were 112 life peers and 192 hereditary peers. There were 26 bishops, and 108 others.

Lord Richard privately believes it would be unrealistic to create sufficient Labour life peers to match the Tories' total of life peers over the term of the Parliament or to overturn the Tory majority. "I don't think either is possible. What I want is reinforcements," he has told senior colleagues.

The Tory lords will not try to kill the Bills to set up a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Assembly, but they will challenge the Government over the detail.

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news

Major bowled over by his Oval house

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major is moving house to be near his first love – cricket. Cleaver Square, Kennington, may be one of the most sought-after Georgian Squares in south London, but the clincher for Mr Major was the fact that it was within hailing distance of the Oval, the home of Surrey Cricket Club, where he is a member.

Mr Major, who once nursed the ambition of being a professional batsman in Surrey's kit, always found time for cricket when he was Prime Minister, asking for the first match scores on the scrambler wherever he was abroad.

On the day after the general election, he eased the pain of defeat by taking the family to the Oval to get away from it all. And when Hong Kong was being handed over to the Chinese, cricket came first. Mr Major eschewed the ceremony and stayed

in Britain to attend the memorial service for Denis Compton.

The Majors' new home also happens to be a short drive away from Westminster, but now that he has more time on his hands, Mr Major is expected to be sneaking off more often to see a few more maidens bowled at his beloved club.

Norma Major, on the other hand, may have doubts about becoming a cricket widow after their holiday on Sardinia's Costa Smeralda on the yacht of the multi-millionaire John Paul Getty II, a fellow cricket fanatic.

They first met in a box at the Oval and Mr Getty allowed the Majors to stay at his house in Cadogan Square, in central London, after they left 10 Downing Street.

Mr Major is now joining an expanding band of politicians who are being attracted to Kennington, where 3- to 4-bedroom houses typically sell for not less than £300,000. The Majors' neighbours will include Roger

Liddle, now a member of Tony Blair's Downing Street policy unit; Jack Straw, the Home Secretary; and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader.

Most of their neighbours are young City traders who have cashed in on their stock market bonuses, although some of the houses are still occupied by locals in the square, where Portchies nestle next to Ford Escorts. "It is one of the best locations in the area, and property prices have gone up by £100,000 in the past year because it is so sought-after," said one local estate agent.

They are keeping their home at in Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire, which they bought in 1983, in Mr Major's Huntingdon constituency. The Majors' acquisition of another London home will raise questions about where the money is coming from, as for most of the past 18 years, Mr Major has been prevented from earning a skyscraper salary in the City, because he was a minister.



Howzat: Cleaver Square in Kennington, a short distance from both the Oval and Westminster, which will be home to the Majors. Photograph: Kalpesh Lathiga

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Half of train inquiries ignored

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

Train companies were warned by the rail regulator yesterday they face fines totalling millions of pounds unless the recent performance of the national telephone inquiry service does not improve.

This warning will hit the 25 train operators hard. A spokeswoman for John Swift, the rail regulator, said that the last complete set of figures showed that 45 per cent of calls to the train inquiry service went unanswered.

This is little improvement on figures earlier this year, which showed that 49 per cent of calls were not taken in April and 35 per cent in May.

The regulator's targets state that 90 per cent of all calls should be answered. Mr Swift said there had been no sustained improvement on the "awful" performance of the service in April.

Unless the service improved within 28 days, a final enforcement notice would be issued and fines amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds imposed on operating companies.

The penalties are severe. Under the fines system, if more than 25 per cent of calls are not answered then train companies will be fined £200,000 per percentage point of calls not taken.

However, the Railways Act does not allow the regulator to fine an operator for the first offence. This means that should the service improve in August – meeting Mr Swift's targets – it leaves him powerless to act.

The train companies had annoyed the rail regulator's office last month by not bringing the falling service to his attention. The regulator now gets a weekly bulletin containing all the figures.

Officially known as the National Rail Enquiry Service, the service is administered by the Association of Train Operating Companies (Atoc).

In April last year, the system had 80 different numbers. These were replaced by a single number in October 1996 and the whole system franchised to the private sector. This has seen call from London answered by operators in South Wales, many of whom are unaware of the local destinations.

Since the autumn, performance had been climbing steadily. A spokesman for Atoc claimed the system was handling nearly "one million calls a week". "We are confident of improving the service," he added.

The railway industry was also chided yesterday by safety watchdogs who called for old-style "slam-door" railway carriages to be phased out, amid concerns over their crashworthiness. Nearly 2,300 of the Mark 1 carriages, built between 1959 and 1974, are still in regular passenger service.

The carriages are believed to have caused deaths in crashes – including the 1988 Clapham disaster – because of a tendency to "ride over" carriages ahead.

Jenny Bacon, the director general of the Health and Safety Executive, announced yesterday the launch of a consultation exercise which may hasten the phasing out of the carriages.

DAILY POEM

Mirror Image

By Louise Glück

Tonight I saw myself in the dark window as the image of my father, whose life was spent like this, thinking of death, to the exclusion of other sensual matters, so in the end that life was easy to give up, since it contained nothing; even my mother's voice couldn't make him change or turn back as he believed that once you can't love another human being you have no place in the world.

Originally published in Ararat (1990), "Mirror Image" appears in the collected volume of Louise Glück's First Five Books Poems just published by Carcanet (£9.95).

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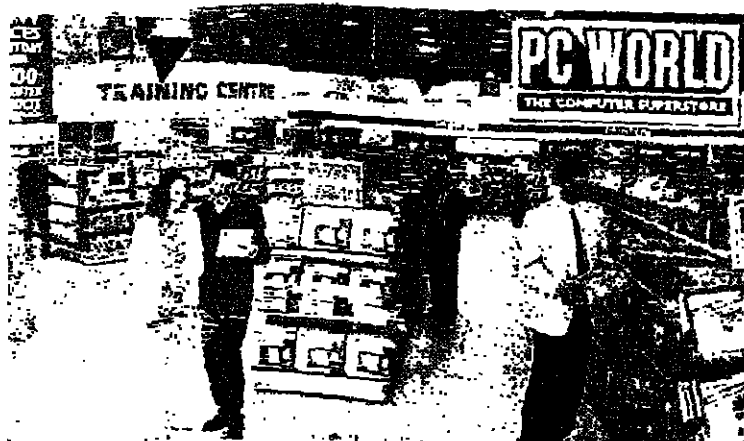
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Autumn colours: Three creations from Christian Lacroix's autumn-winter collection in Paris Photographs: Gareth Watkins/Reuters

What price a bobby on the beat? 50p on rents

Esther Leach

It was a question that everyone on the estate was asking: why should we pay twice for our police force?

The debate had been sparked by a proposal from Bradford city council to add 50p a week to rents to ensure police officers patrol their estate. One woman said: "If there is trouble then the police should be here whether we pay an extra 50p or not. I already pay for the police with a share of my council tax. I don't see why I should pay again."

The argument is often repeated in the community centre on the pre-war Ravenscliffe housing estate which is troubled by drug-taking, burglaries and vandalism.

"We resent the idea too that only council tenants on the estate, and not those who own their council house, should have to pay extra," said Pat Hussain, 55, who has been a council tenant for almost 40 years.

"We would be subsidising house owners, who are probably better able to pay the extra than those who rent their houses, it's just not on." Her friend and neighbour Helen Vennye, 55, who now owns her three bedroom semi-detached council house agreed. "I wouldn't want to benefit at my friend's expense," she said. "We have our problems but we look out for each other and something like this won't do anything for community spirit."

"I really think the whole idea is offensive and really don't want any part of it. The empty houses on the estate, there must be at least 100, only make the problem of crime worse. The kids break into the empty houses and take what they can to sell. They use the houses for drugs and God knows what else. And the council is losing money too. An empty house means no rent or council tax and over time that has got to mount up."

The proposal follows a successful earlier experiment in which Bradford used money from the last government's City Challenge Fund to pay for two police officers dedicated to patrolling a housing estate in the Byrdley area. The council now wants to repeat that success across the city and has been consulting tenants on how it can be achieved, suggesting 50p a week as a service charge. Full consultations have yet to be carried out with West Yorkshire police although some local talks have gone on.

Audrey Rastick, who has launched a city-wide campaign opposing the charge described the idea as stupid. "I don't believe it could have been thought through properly," she said. "It's suggested that the extra 50p should be voluntary but how can you finance a scheme like this in such a way? It's ridiculous. The whole idea is a very dangerous precedent. The next thing you know they will be talking about extra payment for ambulance and fire services."

The commander of the local police division, Superintendent Michael Baxter, said any additional investment was welcome because it would enable them to concentrate efforts in particular areas without taking away support from elsewhere.

The city's housing chairman, Barry Midwood, emphasised that the council was only asking tenants their views. "If tenants themselves take the view that it is viable, then we shall take the matter to the police."

Top judge in plea for fewer jail sentences

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

The steep rise in the prison population is caused by judges heeding public opinion, but ever more severe sentencing is treating the symptoms rather than the causes of crime, Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, said yesterday.

Ministers should grasp the important task of convincing the public that community service sentences were not a "soft option", Lord Bingham, England's senior professional judge, urged



Bingham: 'Tabloid tendency'

in the annual Police Foundation lecture in London.

"While the present vengeful mood of the public endures, courts will hesitate to make such orders," he said. That was "very unfortunate", because the efficacy of imprisonment was in many cases open to question while absorbing resources that would be better spent on schools and hospitals.

Repeating an earlier plea for a Royal Commission on crime and punishment, Lord Bingham said urgent steps needed to be taken to restore the credibility of community service.

vice. "It is highly desirable that the sentence should be one of community service in any case where such a sentence would provide adequate punishment and protection."

The Lord Chief Justice said the increase in the jail population was not explained by any recent increase in sentencing powers. "I have no doubt that it is related to the pressure of public opinion."

He said he accepted that judges must have regard to the "pragmatic instinct" of retribution to maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system. But offenders re-entered society at some point. The offender may, as a result of his experience in confinement, be even more dangerous than he was before. Research findings showed that the prison sentencing had a very small impact on general levels of crime.

There was a "tabloid tendency" to dismiss efforts to rehabilitate as a way of allowing offenders to escape the punishment they really deserved, Lord Bingham said. But schemes around the country had proven success.

The typical offender was male, of low intelligence, addicted to drugs or alcohol, with a family history of parental conflict, lack of supervision, erratic discipline, and emotional physical or sexual abuse, he said. "These considerations do not of course excuse or justify crime. But [they] do help to explain the commission of crime, and those who urge the imposition of ever more serious sentences as a solution to the great and growing problem of crime should pause to ask whether they are treating the symptoms rather than the disease."

Couch therapy works wonders

Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor

In the Eighties, the message to the unemployed was "on yer bike". In the Nineties, it could become "on the couch".

Researchers have found that the best way for the out-of-work to get a job is to get a shrink. A study of 289 unemployed people found those who had group psychotherapy were three times more likely to find work than those who had more conventional help.

All those in the study were white-collar workers who had previously held jobs in management, sales or administration and had been out of work for two years. They were divided into two groups which were either given help developing social and business contacts or enrolled in a programme of cognitive behaviour therapy.

Cognitive behaviour therapy is a widely used psychotherapeutic technique based on the theory that how we think about the world affects mood. A half-filled glass may be described, optimistically, as half full or, pessimistically, as half empty. The aim of the therapy is to make people aware of their self-defeatism and school them in more positive ways of thinking.

In the study by Dr Judith Proudfoot and colleagues at London University, published in the *Lancet*, a third of those who had cognitive therapy found full-time jobs within four months compared with 13 per cent of those who had social support. If part-time work is included, almost half of the therapy group found work compared with 28 per cent of the remainder.

Commenting on the results, Professor Chris McManus, a psychiatrist at St Mary's Hospital, London, says they present a "remarkable success for cognitive behaviour therapy".

Roll up for the special edition Carina E Si. With a unique 1.8 litre lean burn engine (that doesn't hog petrol), a host of creature comforts and a really sharp price, it's bound to send a shiver down the spines of all new car buyers. So hedge your bets and run over to your nearest Toyota dealer now or call 0800 777 555 for more information. We predict you'll see lots on the road this summer.

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international

Clare Short faces a barrage of criticism from Israel after speech

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

Angered by a speech made by Clare Short sympathising with the plight of the Palestinians, Israel yesterday tried to stop the Secretary of State for Overseas

Development from meeting with the Israeli politician regarded as the architect of the Oslo peace accords.

The Israeli embassy yesterday confirmed that it had asked Yossi Beilin, the former Israeli deputy foreign minister, who is

visiting Britain, not to see Ms Short, though he will see Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Ron Prosor, spokesman for the embassy, said: "It is true that the embassy recommended that he [Mr Beilin] not meet Clare Short."

The row with Israel comes on the eve of a visit to Britain by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to meet Tony Blair, the Prime Minister.

Although Mr Beilin chose to ignore Israeli foreign ministry advice by meeting with Ms Short

last night, Mr Prosor added: "He will be meeting Clare Short alone without the [Israeli] ambassador."

The row began after a speech by Ms Short to Medical Aid for the Palestinians, a charitable group, three weeks ago. She said

in the speech: "I am very conscious of the historical wrongs done to the Palestinian people - and the unfairness of the world's expectation that they should make sacrifices to make up for the evil done by Europeans during the Holocaust."

Asserting that Ms Short had compared Israel's attitude towards the Palestinians and the Nazis' attitude towards the Jews, the Israeli Foreign Ministry made a protest. Ms Short was said by an official at her department yesterday to feel that "she didn't mean to cause any offence and doesn't believe it was an offensive remark."

He said that she was merely giving the historic context of the present conflict. The aggressiveness of the Israeli response is in keeping with the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, which frequently implies that any criticism is inspired by anti-Semitism or by hostility to Israel. Hani Shalev, an Israeli commentator, said in the daily *Ma'ariv* yesterday that Israel's Foreign Ministry had launched a campaign to attack critics, such as the United Nations, as "hostile and anti-Semitic". He said this was a regression to Israeli attitudes prior to the first high level Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Madrid in 1991.

In her speech, Ms Short recalled that she had visited the West Bank and Gaza on three or four occasions. She said: "The hope and pain I felt - particularly during my visit at the beginning of the intifada [Palestinian uprising] - will always remain with me." In common with other European Union countries, British policy towards Israel has toughened over the past year since Mr Netanyahu became Prime Minister. Before Labour was elected Britain had condemned the building of the Israeli settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim, called Har Homa by Israel, in Jerusalem; the overall expansion of Israeli settlements; and the confiscation of Palestinian ID cards in Jerusalem. It has also emphasised that Israeli concerns about security must be satisfied.

There is little sign of British policy towards the Middle East changing under Labour, though the Government says it will

give a higher priority to human rights and to ending the economic isolation of the Palestinian enclaves.

The United States and Israel have largely succeeded in excluding other foreign powers from effective intervention in peace negotiations with the Palestinians. However, the EU countries are the largest donors to the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and the West Bank.

Mr Arafat's first meeting with Tony Blair on Monday will form part of a two-day visit to Britain by the Palestinian leader. Mr Arafat has been trying to build up international support to force Mr Netanyahu to implement the interim Agreement of 1993, the present phase of the Oslo accords. Under this, Israel



Yasser Arafat: Seeks outside support for Palestinians

should withdraw from most of the West Bank; Gaza would get an airport and port; and there would be free passage between Gaza and the West Bank.

After a few days without rioting there was increased tension yesterday in Hebron, the Palestinian city of 120,000, effectively partitioned earlier in the year to protect 400 Jewish settlers there. For the first time since the agreement shots were fired at a settler building, prompting Uzi Dayan, the Israeli commander in the West Bank, to close all Palestinian shops in the Israeli sector of the city.



Stonewalled: Palestinian boys hurling stones and bottles at Israeli troops guarding the Jewish settlement in Hebron yesterday Photograph: Reuters

... but words can never hurt me



I am very conscious of the historical wrongs done to the Palestinian people - and the unfairness of the world's expectation that they should make sacrifices to make up for the evil done by Europeans during the Holocaust.

Clare Short

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Britain heads for clash with Nigeria

Steve Crawshaw

Nigeria is furious, but to no avail. Commonwealth ministers gathered in London yesterday to hear a string of opposition and human rights groups call for tougher action against the Nigerian regime - including possible expulsion from the Commonwealth.

Ken Wiwa, son of the executed activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, argued: "The Nigerian authorities are very worried about the effect of expulsion on their image, and at home. The effect would be stunning." Kayode Fayemi, of the United Democratic Front, an opposition umbrella group, said it was important to take tough measures: "It's the choice between chaos and catastrophe."

Britain had made all the right noises, Mr Fayemi said. "The platitudes have been good, the statements have been brilliant. Now, they must follow that up with action."

In 1995, Commonwealth leaders appeared ready to hit Nigeria hard after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa. Nigeria's membership was promptly suspended, amid warnings that, unless Nigeria took steps to clean up its democratic act, it faced expulsion. Two years on, little has changed.

Nigeria's Foreign Minister, Tom Akini, complained bitterly this week about the ministerial meeting, declaring: "The hostile attitude and the use of bodies like CMAQ [Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group] contains the seeds of the future disintegration of the Commonwealth." But democracy activists insist that the Nigerian anger is in itself an in-

dication that the government is getting worried, and that this is therefore a good moment to press the advantage home. In the words of Mr Wiwa: "The whole thing boils down to the credibility of the Commonwealth."

The ministerial group, which finishes its deliberations today, is in advance of a final ministerial meeting in September, which will make recommendations for action to a Commonwealth summit to be hosted by Britain in Edinburgh in October. Britain has been broadly sympathetic to tougher action. Canada has been keenest to take a lead. Within the Commonwealth, Zimbabwe, which chairs the ministerial group, has been notably reluctant to rock the regional boat.

The Nigerian opposition expresses satisfaction at the change of tone in Whitehall since the elections. The new government has been more explicit in its support for the opponents of General Sani Abacha's regime than the Conservative government ever was. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, argued this month: "What holds Nigeria back is a corrupt regime and very poor standards of democratic government."

Tony Lloyd, Foreign Office minister with responsibility for Africa, has made it clear that Britain is in no mood to back down. In advance of yesterday's meeting, he spoke to the *Financial Times* of the "flawed transition from military to civilian rule. He warned of an electoral system which would allow the transition of General Abacha to President Abacha. We cannot allow that."

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Net closes in on Bosnia's wanted men

The military raid on Prijedor reflects a change in UN and Nato strategy to actively seek out suspects

Marcus Tanner

Yesterday's military operation to capture two of Bosnia's leading war crime suspects suggests the net is closing in on the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, and his army commander, General Ratko Mladic.

Those two men, the most important figures in the Bosnian Serbs' bloody war of expansion against their Muslim and Croat neighbours, were still holed up in eastern Bosnia - Karadzic in his Pale fastness just outside Sarajevo, and Mladic in a bunker near the little eastern Bosnian town of Han Pijesak.

Although British army spokesmen yesterday refused to confirm that they have any immediate intention of capturing the kingpins in the organised carnage of 1992, there is no doubt the United Nations and Nato have now dramatically changed their strategy - from waiting for suspects to fall into their net to actively seeking out.

It is possible that an attempt to capture Karadzic and Mladic could follow at any moment.

British special forces who took part in yesterday's raid in Prijedor will have been heartened by the lack of any popular reaction among Bosnian Serbs to the arrest of two of their most significant former leaders, and the death of one of them.

The arrest of Simo Drijaca, the former police chief of Prijedor, who ran the infamous de-

tention centre of Keraterm and Omarska between April and December 1992 and a key figure in the Bosnian Serb power structure, marks a milestone in the international community's attitude towards the arrest of war crime suspects.

Never before have either UN or Nato peace-keepers dared to go out and snatch a man inferior only to Karadzic and Mladic in importance in the Serb hierarchy, and thus risk an armed showdown with his bodyguards.

The bloodshed that resulted from the attempt to grab Drijaca, which took place at about 9.30am in Prijedor, was only a hint of the carnage that might ensue from any attempt to take either Karadzic or Mladic.

Drijaca was clearly surprised, and when he opened fire on the British troops seeking him, wounded only one of them before he was gunned down in what an Army spokesman in Banja Luka said was self-defence.

Karadzic is reported never to be without an escort of at least 50 well-armed bodyguards, most of whom it can be assumed would go down fighting rather than join their master in the dock in The Hague.

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, launched the new, much tougher, policy towards arresting war crime suspects last month on a tour of former Yugoslavia.

When she met Slobodan Milosevic, of Serbia, Franjo Tudjman, of Croatia and Biljana



Action station: British soldiers serving with S-For standing guard at a checkpoint near Prijedor after yesterday's military initiative

Photograph: Srdjan Ilic/AP

Prijedor. If Prijedor is not off limits, neither is Pale nor Han Pijesak.

The question, however, is whether this new active policy of seeking out war criminals is shared equally by the Western powers involved in S-For. New Labour's determination to put ethics at the heart of foreign policy has clearly played a part in yesterday's events in Prijedor.

But the British "zone" in Bosnia is limited to the north-west. Karadzic and Mladic are in the east of Bosnia, where the French and Italians are supreme: it is not certain that the French - traditionally the most sympathetic to the Serbs of the Western powers - want to go after two leaders far better armed and less likely to be surprised than the former boss of Omarska and Keraterm.

Plavsic, the leader of the Bosnian Serb state set up under the 1995 Dayton accord, she spelt out that Washington was losing patience over the non-delivery of indicted suspects to the tri-

bunal in The Hague.

She was also reported to have struck an accord with Mrs Plavsic, in whose field the largest number of suspects are lurking. Certainly, as soon as Ms

Albright left Mrs Plavsic's Banja Luka headquarters, Radovan Karadzic escalated his simmering dispute with Mrs Plavsic virtually into open warfare.

The new tougher approach

bore fruit only days later, two weeks ago, when the UN forces in eastern Slavonia, in Croatia, suddenly arrested Slavko Dokmanovic in connection with Serb atrocities in the city of

Vukovar at the end of 1991.

Now Nato-led S-For troops have shown that they share the UN's stiffened resolve to go in and apprehend suspects, even in the Bosnian Serb heartland of

North Korea ready for war, warns top defector

Richard Lloyd Parry
Tokyo

Hwang Jang Yop, the most senior official ever to defect from North Korea, yesterday repeated his warnings of impending war on the Korean peninsula, but offered no new revelations about Pyongyang's mysterious leadership.

Mr Hwang was speaking at a long-awaited news conference in Seoul, his first public appearance since April, when he arrived in the South, two months after defecting through the South Korean embassy in Peking. Since then, he has been undergoing an extensive "debriefing" by South Korean's spy organisation, the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP).

As a senior member of the North Korean Worker's Party, a former tutor to the country's leader, Kim Jong Il, and his leading political philosopher, he was expected to provide unprecedented new insights into the workings of one of the



Hwang: North's leaders are bent on invading South

world's most secretive and unpredictable regimes. But three months of questioning have produced a remarkable result: on almost every aspect of North Korea, Mr Hwang and his new government are in perfect agreement.

The message sent by Mr Hwang is the one which successive South Korean governments have been repeating to their people and allies for decades: for all the food shortages and economic crises which have beset the country recently, North Korea's leaders are psychopaths, bent on invading the South Korean paradise at the first opportunity. Mr Hwang's vehement denunciations of the country he served for 60 years were matched only by his praise for his new home.

"I have come to the Republic of Korea (ROK) to warn about the danger of an armed invasion of the South and to contribute to the peaceful unification of our country," Mr Hwang said in a prepared state-

ment. "The North's preparedness for war goes beyond imagination. North Korea is permeated by an atmosphere of war ... I am firmly convinced that it is necessary for all Koreans to be firmly united and thoroughly prepared if we are to prevent the impending war and safeguard freedom and peace."

In a separate written statement, issued on his behalf by the NSP, Mr Hwang described the invasion strategy devised by Kim Jong Il, the son of North Korea's founding "Great Leader", Kim Il Sung. This would begin with a faked attack by North Korean troops wearing South Korean uniforms, thus providing the pretext for an artillery bombardment of Seoul.

Any American intervention on behalf of the South would be punished with a missile strike on Japan which would "turn the area into a sea of fire".

Strategic facilities in the South would be seized by 100,000 commandos, followed by a full-scale motorised invasion, which would seize control of Seoul within a week, and the entire country within six months.

If such a plan does exist it will bring little anxiety to American officials who say that an attack by North Korea's poorly equipped and under-fuelled forces, while highly destructive, would be repulsed in a matter of days.

According to Mr Hwang, Kim Jong Il wanted to attack the South in 1992, but was talked out of it by his late father. This week, the United Nations launched another appeal for \$45.7m worth of food aid to alleviate food shortages in North Korea. Meanwhile in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Il made a rare public appearance at ceremonies marking the third anniversary of his father's death.

Mr Hwang confirmed that the country is suffering from wide-spread food shortages, and that Kim Jong Il is in firm personal control. But on several crucial questions, he was disappointingly vague.

In April, Mr Hwang was quoted as having told the NSP that Pyongyang was capable of "scorching" Seoul with nuclear missiles. But yesterday he admitted that, as a party intellectual rather than a military commander, he had never seen such a weapon. "It's common sense that there are [nuclear weapons]," he said. "I just can't prove it."

He also poured cold water on rumours of the so-called "Hwang list", said to contain the names of hundreds of senior South Koreans working as spies for the communist side, but insisted that "there are operations sections engaged in infiltration and intelligence".

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international

Exodus swells as Cambodia is condemned

Matthew Chance
Phnom Penh

Hundreds of expatriates converged on Phnom Penh airport yesterday, as more nations decided to evacuate their citizens from Cambodia after last week's coup.

The airfield, scene of a dramatic airlift of foreign nationals fleeing the Khmer Rouge in 1975, was the focus of intense fighting just under a week ago between rival government factions, littering the runway tarmac with debris.

Asbestos shards and rubble crunched under the feet of a long line of British, Canadian and American evacuees as they

dragged their suitcases, and what belongings they could salvage, past the gutted terminal buildings towards three Malaysian Air Force cargo aircraft.

Empty boxes and broken bottles from duty-free cognac and French perfume, looted by the forces of each side, clung to nearby bushes and added a pungent piquancy to the scene, their odours mingling with the fading smell of gunsmoke.

The exodus, which has gained momentum over the past few days, has been given further impetus by a hardening of international condemnation of the coup which ousted the country's First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and which

established his former coalition partner, Hun Sen, formerly Second Prime Minister, as the unchallenged power in Cambodia.

At an emergency meeting in Malaysia yesterday, member states of the region's economic bloc, the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) postponed Cambodia's membership, scheduled for later this month. This is a serious diplomatic rebuke for Hun Sen, but he has remained defiant, warning the international community and Asean to keep out of Cambodia's internal affairs.

In Washington, the State Department has called on Hun Sen to reverse his bid for power and to acknowledge Prince



Pulling out: A man hauling his luggage through the wrecked arrivals terminal at the airport in Phnom Penh yesterday

Photograph: AP

Ranariddh, who is canvassing US support in New York, as the senior Cambodian leader. Hun Sen has rejected the call. United States marines are expected to fly in later today to supervise a full-scale withdrawal of American nationals, although this also is more a diplomatic reprimand at this stage than an expression of true fears for the Americans' safety.

More than 450 Britons are being advised by the Foreign Office to take the first available flights out of the country. Most will fly from Phnom Penh, leaving behind them a city scarred

by the fighting. On the outskirts of the city, factories which were last week producing rubber components for export now lie burnt out, or shattered by heavy mortars and shoulder-launched B-40 rockets.

Prince Ranariddh's family home, said to contain priceless antiquities from the ancient Angkor Wat temple complex, has been all but destroyed. The city offices of his FUNCINPEC political group were torn apart by the troops of Hun Sen's former communist Cambodian People's Party. The fragments lie strewn across bloodstained roads outside the building, a reminder of the more than 50 people killed in the coup.

Hun Sen's soldiers, who just four nights earlier were looting shops and offices across the city, now roar through the pot-holed streets on powerful motorcycles, toting heavy machine guns and rocket launchers. During the fighting, fridges, cookers and other electrical goods were carried out through smashed shop windows. Car showrooms were emptied: gleaming red Toyotas or Mitsubishi can be seen crawling inconspicuously through the cycle-rickshaws and decrepit scooters that make up most of Phnom Penh's traffic.

But fires are no longer burning on the streets of the capital and the thousands of residents who fled the violence last week have mostly returned.

The looted goods are appearing in markets at prices within the reach of many more than could previously have afforded luxury items such as televisions and toasters. One

man said he could now buy a new motorbike for just \$100. "We cannot stop and think about our situation for too long," says Kim Sok, a grocery stall-holder, "we have to put down our heads and work on to live, no matter what is going on around us."

The feeling, shared by most people in this beleaguered country, devastated by nearly 25 years of incessant war, is that events are beyond their control.

Cambodians could not prevent America from dropping its bombs in the early Seventies, leaving as many as 400,000 dead. Nor did they largely support the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, led by the dictator Pol Pot, during which an estimated 2 million of their countrymen were killed.

The elections of 1993, sponsored by the United Nations, gave Cambodians their first real say in the running of their own country. Now even that result - always resented by the loser, Hun Sen - has been overruled.



New leader: Hun Sen at a press conference yesterday

significant shorts

Swiss heroin handouts said to cut crime

A Swiss experiment with state-distributed heroin - a world first - has slashed crime, misery and death associated with the hard-core drug scene, authorities said. Presenting the findings of a pilot three-year study involving 1,100 addicts, health and police experts said the programme was a success, saved the taxpayer money, and should be continued. But the experts said state-provided heroin would not solve the evils of drug abuse and was no substitute for other therapies and withdrawal programmes. The Netherlands is planning its own programme with heroin distribution; Germany, Spain and Australia are also interested in the Swiss experience.

AP - Bern

Venezuela death toll put at 59

The death-toll in Venezuela's worst earthquake in decades rose to 59. About 320 others were injured in Wednesday's quake, which registered 6.9 on the Richter scale. About 250 people have been rescued, most with minor injuries. Worse hit was the village of Cariaco, where two schools collapsed, killing 30 pupils.

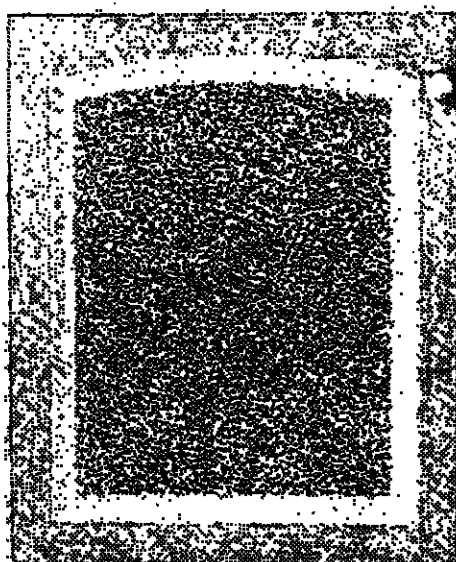
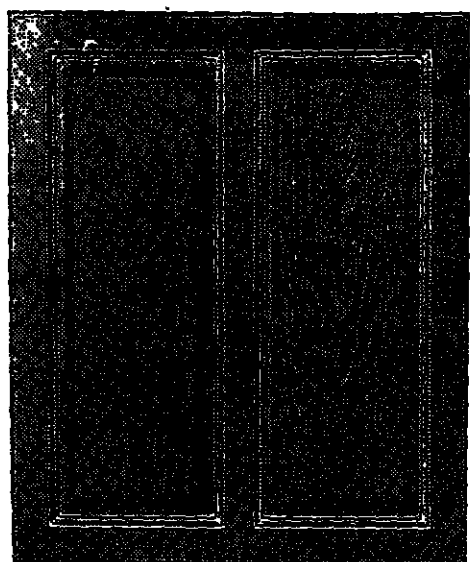
AP - Cumana

£7m more for quake victims

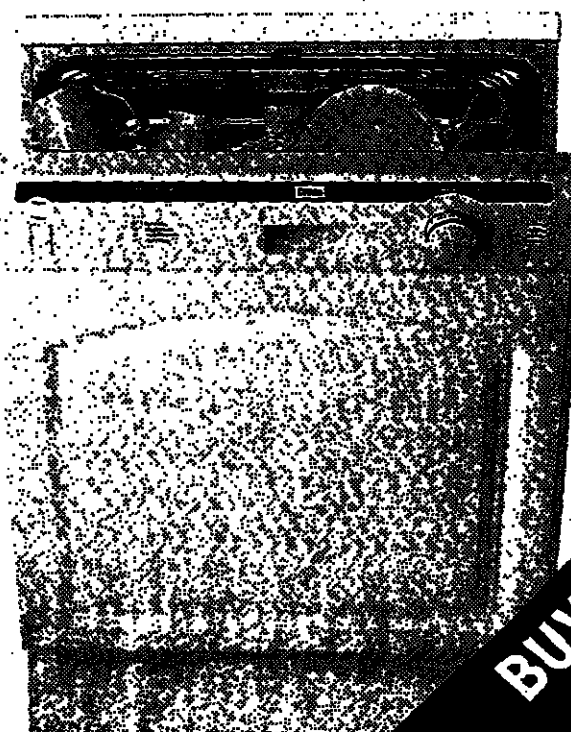
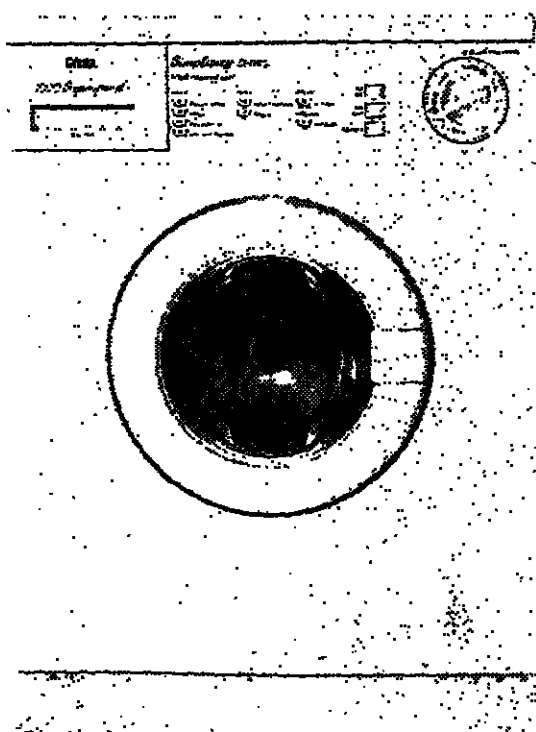
Britain will give Montserrat a further £6.95m to help people hurt or made homeless by volcanic activity on the Caribbean island. "We are taking emergency action to deal with the crisis in all its aspects," the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, said. Twenty-two people are dead or missing following the most serious eruption so far, last month.

Reuters - London

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international

Logic of Emu has Paris and Bonn at a loss

John Lichfield
Paris
Imre Karacs
Bonn

Germany and France both confronted the tough budgetary logic of monetary union yesterday, but insisted that the goal of a single currency was still attainable. Guessing the likely size of the French budget deficit, if left to its own devices this year, has become a game of sticking the tail on the donkey.

Estimates, from the semi-official to the private, range from 3.4 per cent to 4 per cent, well over the 3 per cent of GDP guideline in the Maastricht Treaty. Economists are almost unanimous in their assessment that Germany's budget deficit will be over 3 per cent this year, and probably in 1998 as well.

In France it was revealed that the former prime minister, Alain Juppé, warned his successor last month that the country's budget deficit could shatter the Emu guideline this year, possibly rising as high as 4 per cent of GDP.

The warning was contained in a confidential letter handed to the new prime minister, Lionel Jospin, when he took over on 2 June. The contents were leaked to the French press this week as part of an almost daily campaign by the Jospin government to prepare other EU governments, the markets, left-wing MPs and public opinion for the tough budgetary choices which lie ahead.

The French Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, has let it be known that France will not hit the 3-per-cent target in 1997 but expects to come close in 1998. He has suggested that action will be taken to bring this year's deficit down to a figure acceptable to other EU countries (possibly 3.4 or 3.5 per cent) but confusion remains on how he will achieve this.

This week he suggested that spending cuts may be necessary, something he previously seemed to rule out. At the

Brussels set for a bigger EU

After talks in Brussels, the European Commission looks set to call for Estonia and Slovenia to join Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Cyprus in the next round of EU expansion, writes Sarah Helm.

The proposal is expected to be presented next week when the Commission sets out plans for preparing for enlargement and clearing the way for the first accession talks.

Talks with new members look certain to begin under the British presidency of the Union, starting in January. Ten countries have applied for membership; to ease the disappointment of states not invited to join in the first wave, the enlargement conference will be maintained as a rolling negotiation, with shadow negotiations established for likely latecomers, say British officials.

same time, he unfroze a £1.1bn contingency fund to allow promised new social spending to go ahead. Various ways of raising new revenue have also been floated and then repudiated or not quite repudiated, including a windfall tax on very profitable businesses and an increased wealth tax.

Bonn is also struggling to hit the target: yesterday it finalised its emergency budget aimed at qualifying for Emu. While the government was forced to acknowledge that it would have to borrow an additional DM18bn (£6bn) to keep the state machinery ticking over till the end of the year, officials still insisted that the Maastricht targets remained in sight.

"We are certain that we will be able strictly to fulfil the

Maastricht criteria," said Hermann Otto Solms, leader of the Free Democrats' parliamentary group. His party, the smallest in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition, last night gave the nod of approval to the Finance Minister's supplementary budget, which is due to be adopted by the full Cabinet today.

Theo Waigel, the minister with the unenviable task, had been racking his brain since January to find ways of conjuring up the magic figure prescribed by Maastricht. He still has some tricks up his sleeve: privatisation of state-owned utilities netting DM12.7bn this year, and temporary freezes in public expenditure. Although the Maastricht Treaty forbids such one-off measures, the Finance Minister is likely to argue that those rules, dictated originally by his own government, are mere technicalities.

As the day of reckoning approaches, other excuses are already being invented. The federal government intends to pin the blame for some of the overspending on the Länder, and on unavoidable overshoots in welfare spending.

Today the Cabinet is also due to approve the budget for 1998, promising, as it did last year, a steady fall in outgoings and a reduction of government debt.

Next year Mr Waigel plans to sell the rest of the family silver, bringing him another DM20bn. Despite stagnating revenue, the promised tax cuts will be introduced.

Economists say that will ensure that Bonn will have a serious problem meeting the Maastricht criteria next year, too, though perhaps that will no longer be Mr Waigel's - or Chancellor Kohl's - problem. But at least the new budgets make one concession to the real world: the pretence that unemployment will be halved by the year 2000 is gone.

Even the government's professional optimists expect the number of jobless to be no fewer than 3.9 million then.



Hidden dangers: The 'luxury' Georgetown area of the capital has been shaken by a triple murder

Photograph: Rex Features

Murders mar a picture of wealth

A Washington enclave long regarded as a haven has found it is no longer immune to the crime wave

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

It was the legendary picture of America - the horror version. Three young people - an Irish-American, a black and a Jew, murdered, shot in the head, behind the trendy coffee-shop where they worked. They had just locked up after their early-evening shift.

The killings, discovered on Monday morning, were at once typical and highly unusual. They were typical because Washington, capital of the world's richest nation, has one of the highest rates of violent crime in the US and has proved less amenable to "get-tough" policing methods than almost anywhere else in America.

Within the District of Columbia limits there is a perpetual frisson of violence, whether in the downtown area or on the periphery. Speeding, siren-screaming police-vans, private

cars brought to a screeching halt, their occupants bundled out and played at gunpoint over the rear of the car - hands up, legs apart - are part of the everyday texture of life in downtown Washington.

This city has invisible lines that no one in his, and especially her, right mind crosses. Those lines move a couple of blocks further east in daylight, but they are not obliterated by the sunshine.

Which is why the triple murder at Starbucks coffee-shop was so shocking. It took place in what the newspaper reports described (not entirely correctly) as the city's "luxury" area of Georgetown - the area of north-west Washington that is regarded as the preserve of the intelligentsia, the politicians and the media. With its narrow, quiet and leafy streets, lined with low-build pastel houses, it is thought of as the most European part of town.

It was home to the likes of John F. Kennedy, and Pamela Harriman; the proprietor of

the Washington Post, Katharine Graham, and legions of Washington politicians live there. It is stuffed with small shops and restaurants (some permanent, some not) and is one of the few parts of the city where home, work and entertainment are all within walking distance.

No one would say Georgetown was "safe" in European terms.

But, as one resident commented after the Starbucks murders, "we had robberies, sure, but murders - no."

This is why people, and businesses, move to Georgetown. There is money, a clientele, and a degree of security not found in much of DC.

"This is what we moved from south-east Washington to get away from," said the owner of a small business close to the coffee-shop.

There are plenty of flowers outside the shop now. The lights are perpetually on, as police scour the premises for clues. And television vans are stationed in the adjacent car-park. Locally,

everyone knows what happened, takes a fleeting glance, and turns away.

The police have interviewed disgruntled former employees, and are silent about a theory that, because the shop was locked, one of the dead might have been the perpetrator. They say they are following every lead. They, too, are treating the murders as an extraordinary event.

But there is no disguising the underlying fear. Georgetown was never crime-free; the crime reports published each week in the local paper itemise burglaries, robberies (some armed), assaults etc. street by street, and they include (if you are familiar with the street numbers) Georgetown. But murder verging on escalation is different.

The site too, a branch of the ubiquitous and fashionable Seattle-based cafe chain, which has almost alone rehabilitated the premises for coffee-drinking in the United States, seemed appallingly inappropriate for such a crime.

Starbucks, in Georgetown, yuppie-haven in elites-ville.

Some local residents fear that this is just a harbinger of things to come. Could the zero-tolerance police policy that Washington is pushing scold crime to the privileged fringe?

Are these who bought the illusion of safety now vulnerable? Residents of predominantly white, middle-class north-west Washington often feel they are "punished" if their address by the neglect of Mayor Marion Barry and his black-dominated town hall.

Roads are appalling, repair uncoordinated, council services haphazard. Will safety, too, be sacrificed? But Georgetown is not giving up without a struggle. Latest reports of the murders have mysteriously shifted the location to Burleith, the last chic area at Georgetown's west-end edge. "This is stretching a point, but if it makes the residents feel better (and keeps house prices high), it may stick."

The truth is, though, that if the murders had really happened in Burleith, they might have sunk almost unnoticed into the morass of Washington day-to-day crime.

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Parliament in pursuit of the wrong priorities

Put Baroness Tallyho on television, and most people are filled with an uncontrollable desire not just to ban hunting, but to watch her lurching, beagling and the wearing of waxed jackets and green wellies. Not to mention a sudden conviction that the House of Lords should be abolished outright – hereditaries and lifers alike. But then something strange happens. Listen to Linda Righteous put the case for banning hunting, and we are suddenly filled with an equal and opposite conviction: Leave Country Sports Alone. Let archaic toffs and their followers dress up and charge about the countryside. They may be horrid to foxes, but we do all kinds of horrible things to animals and no one promises a free vote on compulsory vegetarianism.

The argument about fox-hunting, then, is a case of the unappealing in debate with the illogical. Emotive agitation and disingenuousness rear up on both sides. But clear it all aside, and certain simple facts stand out. First, fox hunting is a ghastly business – not so much because the killing of foxes is offensive, or even the tearing apart of them while still alive (even though both of these things are repulsive), but the fact that this is organised by people as a sport. The idea of taking pleasure in the kill, and of primitive practices such as "blooding", are nasty supplements to the business of controlling the

fox population. If hunters donned black puritan gear for the chase and staged a decent funeral for the sad but necessary death of the fox, perhaps there would never have been such a fuss. Instead they dress like the squirearchy and have a good time. Making a sport of killing animals is wrong, and that is why the vast majority of people in this country disapprove of it.

But it does not follow that hunting should be banned. Many other activities of which most right-thinking people disapprove are nevertheless permitted to happen. Public opinion and this newspaper regard boxing as an utterly abhorrent pastime, which pretends to ennoble crass and brutish behaviour. That does not mean it should be banned. Controlled more tightly, perhaps, but the threshold above which legislation is required should be set quite high.

In the case of hunting, there needs to be a compelling reason, over and above public distaste, for legislation. True, the law can be used, and should be used where practicable, to prevent needless cruelty to animals. But the arguments about animal cruelty in relation to hunting are less clear-cut than anti-hunting campaigners allow. They seem curiously oblivious to the drawbacks of the main alternative, which is shooting. (Poisons and traps being more cruel and dangerous than



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hunting.) It would be better if all foxes were killed cleanly, but many opponents of hunting will also be most enthusiastic in support of Labour's determination to ban pistol shooting as a sport, and keenest to restrain the culture of guns.

The analogies drawn by both sides of the argument are faulty. Those who are against hunting always mention cock-fighting and badger-baiting, once good clean fun, now illegal. But the point about those "sports" is that they were organised solely for the amusement of the humans involved. Some foxes have to be killed because

they do not have natural predators, other than man. Equally, the argument about the amount of stress suffered by foxes or stags is specious. That argument swung the National Trust against hunting on its land, but you only have to watch BBC wildlife programmes from the comfort of your armchair to know that life in the wild is no picnic.

On the other side, the claim by the hunt-followers that a ban on their sport will lead inevitably to a ban on fishing is absurd. If the pressure for a ban on hunting is sustained by public opinion, this country has some way to go before the majority adopts the full vegan

manifesto. Nor are we illogical in this: only the fundamentalist mentality would fail to recognise a sliding scale of degrees of cruelty. Morally, setting a pack of dogs on a fox is worse than hooking a fish.

We should not be afraid to make these relative judgements, because then it becomes clear how far down the scale and how debatable cruelty to foxes lies. In this there is no absolute stance.

If there is a case for further legislation to stop needless cruelty to animals, then there is a case for requiring all pork, poultry and eggs to be free range.

But once the question of priorities is opened up, we arrive at the real issue here. Of all the important things on which Parliament could be spending its allegedly tightly-constrained time, banning fox-hunting is one of the least significant. Our preferences would be for a Freedom of Information Bill (an ideal opportunity for a backbencher), but many others suggest themselves.

That is the tragedy of Mike Foster's choice of Bill: having come top of the ballot for valuable private member's time, he will entangle his government in an unnecessary diversion from vastly more important matters. On the eve of yesterday's pro-hunt rally, the Prime Minister was trapped in the Commons into restating his opposition to fox-hunting – one of his less convincing

personal convictions. As a result, he alienated unnecessarily a relatively harmless minority group and was forced to squander some of the precious fund of goodwill upon which his government will need to draw in future. And for what? The salvation of some widely populous wild dogs, and the gratification of a popular desire to see country toffs cut down to size. It's not really worth it, is it?

Make it a Day to Remember

Are you sick of "days"? No Smoking Day. Leave Your Car At Home Day. Be Nice To Little Old Ladies Day. Take Your Child to Work Day? Yesterday, it seems, was National Sick Day: thousands took the day off sick because they could not for some reason feel well enough to work for British Airways or to stand on a picket line. One suspects a few more discovered they had an important engagement in Hyde Park. Many more no doubt stayed at home to protest at the proliferation of days, of which there are demonstrably too many. Good thing there was no Test Match or Tim Henman game to watch: there would have been nobody left at work.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EU farm madness rages on

Sir: Your headline "Europe to end farm madness" (9 July) should not get readers too excited. The proposals are timely and more than welcome, but they are a long way from the radical reform that is needed. What's more, they still have to make it through the European Council of Agriculture Ministers, where farm madness begins (Jack Cunningham excluded, of course).

These proposals will not mean a saving in the agricultural budget and the EU will continue to pay vast sums of money to those who don't need it. There are no planned changes in the sugar regime which costs the EU around 2bn ecu a year. There are no plans to change milk quotas. We will still pour almost £1bn into tobacco when 90 per cent of the crop has no market value. The combined cost of the olive oil and tobacco regimes is higher than the entire EU research budget. Have we got our priorities right?

The European Commission has come up with proposals they believe will be politically acceptable, and Commissioner Fischler should be congratulated on this. But save the celebrations – farm madness is far from over. TERRY WYNN MEE (Merseyside East and Wigan, Lab) Brussels

Sir: You report that the Common Agricultural Policy is to be reformed because it is hugely expensive, but that under the new proposed system spending on agriculture will rise by £3.5bn. Every other business has to make a living without subsidy and hand-outs. Can anybody tell me why farming is so different? The Rev DAVID E FLAVELL Peterlee, Co Durham

Sir: Like you, we welcome reports from Brussels that the Commission is to propose a further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy including, among other things, a sharp cut in support prices for grain.

You do, however, risk misleading your readers by suggesting that there is a direct link between these support prices and market prices. Indeed it is several years since significant quantities of wheat were sold into UK intervention and a more recent phenomenon has been the imposition of export taxes to prevent European cereals prices rising to world levels.

All of which is not to deny the desirability of a market-orientated policy for agriculture which is responsive to genuine consumer demand. As we all know, however, markets can move up as well as down and, depending on the level of world stocks, invariably will. JOHN MURRAY Director-General National Association of British and Irish Millers London SW1

Rural workers back hunt ban

Sir: Charlie Pye-Smith ("Hunt ban will hit rural workers", 9 July) suggested that there would be huge job losses if hunting with hounds were banned. As the only legitimate trade union representing rural workers, we are convinced that there are very few jobs totally dependent on hunting with hounds and where there are problems, we believe these can be dealt with by diversifying into other activities



such as dog-hunting. The article proposes that 3,910 people are directly employed in hunting and suggests that another 10,000 would be indirectly affected. Meanwhile the full-page advertisement in the same issue of *The Independent*, funded by the "Countryside Alliance Fighting Fund", states that 60,000 jobs are threatened. This is an example of the way wildly varying figures are thrown around by the pro-hunt lobby. We have to accept that there are no reliable figures on the number of workers directly involved with hunting.

The T&G policy of opposition to hunting with hounds was determined democratically by the Rural and Agricultural Workers Trade Group at its national conference, with representatives from rural areas all over the UK. It is simply not the case that all or even most rural people support hunting.

BARRY LEATHWOOD National Secretary, Rural, Agricultural and Allied Workers Transport & General Workers' Union London SW7

Sir: Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, has been quoted as suggesting that the foot packs in his constituency should be exempt from the proposed ban on hunting, apparently on the grounds that they exist for the eradication of foxes rather than for the pleasures of the chase.

Are we then to look forward to inspectors from his department descending on the hunts at intervals to ensure that none of their human participants are enjoying themselves? WILLIAM HALE Manchester

Fears that haunt the Orangemen

Sir: I have had enough of the continued demonstration of the Orange Order on your letters pages. I am not a member of the Order, but understand the feelings of those who are. It is not a "symbol of Protestant domination", or the next of kin to the British Union of Fascists, with a "belief in its own superiority" (Letters, 10 July).

Perhaps those that condemn the Order should ask why people still feel they need to belong to a group established for their protection over 200 years ago.

Maybe it is because they have seen their neighbours brutally murdered and injured for over 30 years, in many cases simply for being Protestant. They have seen families in border areas intimidated from their homes.

These people then see the concerned residents of the Garvaghy Road deliberately select a convicted terrorist as their spokesman. That is not the act of a group with any real interest in settling the issue. Is it any wonder they feel themselves threatened?

The sooner people realise there are two sides to every story, the sooner the unionists of Northern Ireland can start to feel secure about their position. Then perhaps the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland who want peace will be able to get on with sorting out our own problems. ALAN ARMSTRONG Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh

Sir: What celebrations of cultural identity take place where the local residents have to be bated off the streets and then panned in their homes by riot police? Is this how the Notting Hill Carnival traditionally begins, or your local Armistice Day parade? The Orange Order marches in Northern Ireland are celebrations not of Protestant cultural heritage but of sectarian triumphalism.

The Portadown march has made it plain to every Ulster Catholic that when push comes to shove, the forces of law and order cannot be relied upon to act impartially, but are liable to act in concert with the forces of loyalist bigotry.

Who then can they look to for protection of their lives and homes but the IRA?

Mo Mowlam's decision also has a huge bearing on the forlorn peace process and arms decommissioning. Sinn Féin/IRA should say that there can be no decommissioning until such provocative marches stop going through Catholic areas, and the police and Army can prove that they will stand up to Unionist intimidation by protecting Catholic residents.

As someone who grew up in the Ulster Protestant tradition, I express my solidarity with the residents of Garvaghy Road. I have far more in common with them than with the Orangemen who have hijacked my culture and claim to speak in my name. LAURIE McDOWELL London N2

Fuelling dispute in space

Sir: I feel I should correct Dr High (Letters, 8 July) in an attempt to keep environmentalists' bad name for scientific literacy from getting any worse.

Most liquid-fuelled rockets use liquid hydrogen as the fuel. The liquid oxygen Dr High refers to is the oxidant without which the fuel will not burn. The exhaust gas of this reaction between oxygen and hydrogen is that well-known pollutant dihydrogen oxide. Although dangerous in large quantities in its liquid form, as a vapour it is not a greenhouse gas and has no effect on the ozone layer. In fact it seems to have a role in actually reducing atmospheric temperature. Space scientists agree that its absence from the Venusian atmosphere contributes greatly to Venus's high temperature.

Dihydrogen oxide is usually called by its common name: water. NELSON CUNNINGTON Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Tito's mole

Sir: John Earle writes (Letters, 9 July) that James Klugmann briefed him for his mission to Serbia in a fair and balanced way. The reason was that Mr Earle was going to Serbia and would have been able to see for himself the situation there.

Mr Earle was not the only one who was impressed by Klugmann. Even Royal Yugoslav officers who

were sent to Serbia during 1942 and 1943, having been briefed by officers of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in Cairo, found Klugmann charming and better informed on Yugoslavia than his colleagues. However, the point is that from mid-1943 SOE Cairo were retransmitting to London reports on the situation in Serbia received from William Deakin and Fitzroy Maclean, who were with Tito in the western part of Yugoslavia and never set foot in Serbia. After the war British liaison officers who served with Mihailovic and his Serb fighters, including Brigadier Armstrong, Major Rootman, Major Jack and Captain Lees, complained that their important reports were either suppressed by SOE Cairo (later Bari) or sent with considerable delay to London. ALEKSA GAVRILOVIC Stafford

Colour harmony

Sir: The festive gown for the Cambridge Doctor of Music is exotic and beautiful: cream damask, lined with dark-cherry satin. The protectors admired and approved Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's style of dress when she was awarded this degree *honoris causa* on Tuesday; it complemented her gown perfectly, and she appeared equally exotic and beautiful ("Dame Kiri Strikes a different note", 9 July).

We have heard no note of discord on this issue whatsoever, within the university. D J H GARLING Senior Proctor OLIVER RACKHAM Junior Proctor The Old Schools University of Cambridge

BA's sanctions against strikers

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith ("Punishment, fear and humiliation – the bully's way", 8 July), says that I have been unreasonable towards British Airways staff. His accusations are unfair, and much of his argument naive.

This is not a dispute which is based on reasonable grounds. There is no justification for this strike. The agreement has been accepted by the other union representing cabin crew. The only reason for implementing this deal without the consent of the union BASSA is that they walked out and refused to discuss the deal with us during the process which we arranged months ago.

Rather than negotiate, BASSA called for a strike, which is damaging our company and causing great distress to our customers. It is surely naive to argue that there should be no sanctions for those willing to cause such disruption. To say that this indicates that British Airways does not fully accept the right of people to belong to a trade union is ridiculous. British Airways recognises more trade unions than any other large employer in this country, and we have already reached agreements with unions representing over 30,000 of our staff.

We are doing everything we can to let our staff come to work, as most of them want to. Our overriding concern throughout this dispute has been our customers, and we are doing everything possible to ensure that they are inconvenienced as little as possible throughout this difficult time. ROBERT AYLING Chief Executive British Airways Hounslow, Middlesex

Deadly drivers

Sir: Isn't it likely that a car that protects its occupants in a crash inflicts greater damage to other vehicles it collides with, and thus their occupants ("Tests show that even 'safe' cars can kill", 2 July)? This is apart from injury to any pedestrians hit.

There is evidence that drivers who perceive themselves to be protected within their car are less safety conscious in the way they drive, thus transferring the danger to others. The rational way to build safety into car design would be to ensure that the person most at risk in an accident is the driver. CHRISTOPHER PADLEY Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

God's fault

Sir: Austin Piclou (Letters, 5 July) suggests that we must draw the line somewhere when it comes to apologising for our past. I do not know how much attention God pays to the daily lives of us mere mortals, but let us not encourage him to also apologise for the problems that he has caused lest he should decide to start everything all over again. GAVIN LAWRENCE Cambridge

essay

The colour Orange

On the eve of the Orange Order's main anniversary, David McKittrick charts its long, bloody history and its paradoxical status as supporter of, and threat to, the establishment

One of the many extraordinary things about the Orange Order is its capacity to maintain its self-image of respectability in the face of a torrent of criticism. It contains, for example, a great many clergymen and devout Protestants who genuinely regard it as the essence of law-abiding Christianity and good order.

The Order takes its name from William of Orange, whose defeat of the Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne is celebrated every 12th July. One of its most hallowed texts sets out the ideal Orangeman: "He should cultivate truth and justice, brotherly kindness and charity, devotion and piety, concord and unity and obedience to the laws; his deportment should be gentle and compassionate." It has sometimes been difficult to discern such high-minded sentiments, for example when Orangemen triumphantly hold up five fingers as they parade past a spot where five Catholics were shot dead.

The last three marching seasons produced widespread disorder, a momentary breakdown of law and order and what a Presbyterian minister has described as "Northern Ireland's Chernobyl", with almost a meltdown in community relations. While other elements bear some responsibility, it is the Order's metropolitan determination to march through hostile Catholic areas that has time and again occasioned serious disturbance. It was ever thus, for throughout its two-century history the Order has left behind a trail of troubles.

In 1864, after Belfast was racked with riots that over 18 days left 12 dead and 100 injured, an official inquiry reported: "Belfast is liable to periodic disturbances on occasions well known as the Orange anniversaries. If the celebration of these anniversaries be attended with such risk, we might well ask why any party should obstinately adhere to it."

"Can neither the discouragement of

the powerful and influential nor the adverse opinion of the wise and good induce those who indulge in such vain and mischievous displays to remember the claims of citizenship, or charity, or of civilisation?"

One of the factors in helping the Order sustain itself through the recurring bouts of criticism is the fact that those in authority have traditionally alternated between criticising it and co-opting it into the system. There is an extraordinary historical pattern of the Order sometimes undermining the stability of the north of Ireland and sometimes acting as one of its most fundamental props. This was the case right from the Order's foundation in the last years of the 18th century, not far from Drumcree in County Armagh, then as now one of the bitterest of places. It was forged in the crucible of sectarian conflict there from precursors such as the Peep O'Day boys.

Set up after a gang of Protestants had bested a gang of Catholics in a clash fuelled by land hunger and sectarianism, the Order helped drive 7,000 Catholics out of the county in just two months. Catholics were threatened: "Now Teak this for Warrig. For if you Bee in this Contry Wednesday Night I will Blow your Soul to the Low hills of hell And Burn the House you are in."

Such methods, coupled with its rapid growth, initially alarmed the government, but with republican rebellion in the air the authorities swiftly moved to co-opt the Order as a counter-revolu-

tionary force. A magistrate spelt out the official calculation: "As for the Orangemen, we have a difficult card to play; they must not be entirely discountenanced - on the contrary, we must in a certain degree uphold them for, with all their licentiousness, on them we must rely for the preservation of our lives and properties, should critical times occur."

So it proved. The landed gentry moved quickly to assume leadership of the Order, instilling discipline and deference into what had originally been denounced as "lawless banditti". In Napoleonic times 25,000 regular troops were augmented by 20,000 yeomen, almost all of them Orangemen, who played an important part in putting down the United Irishmen's rebellion of 1798. The brutality employed was legendary, a British officer noting: "Hundreds and thousands of wretches were butchered while unarmed on their knees begging mercy; and it is difficult to say whether soldiers, yeomen or militia men took most delight in their bloody work."

The subsequent history of Orangism continues the pattern of paradoxical duality, alternately undermining authority and upholding it. At one stage its Grand Master was the Duke of Cumberland, but then it was banned in 1825 because of worries about the extent of its penetration of the army, which was found to contain many Orange lodges. In the north of Ireland it remained in existence despite the ban, though for much of the 19th century it was deserted by the upper classes and had little prestige. Freed from its differential posture, the century experienced what might be called the golden age of the Orange riot.

In 1813 Belfast experienced its first religious riot when an Orange procession marched into a Catholic street. Two

were killed and four injured, but this turned out to be a minor affair: 1829 brought major disorder in 11 different locations, with at least 16 deaths. Back in County Armagh the first service at Drumcree had taken place in 1807; the first arrests were in 1833, while the first Catholic death, in 1835, was followed in 1869 by the first Protestant fatality.

But it was Belfast which saw the worst of the violence with repeated riots during the marching season, most of them following Orange demonstrations, 12 major disturbances taking place between 1813 and 1886. One report said: "The celebration of that [Orange July] festival is plainly and unmistakably the originating cause of these riots," adding that the occasion was used "to remind one party of the triumph of their ancestors over those of the other, and to incite the feelings of Protestant superiority over their Roman Catholic neighbours."

In the 1880s, contact with the upper classes was re-established when the threat of home rule appeared on the horizon. The Tory Lord Randolph Churchill famously said that if Gladstone "went for home rule, the Orange card would be the one to play. Please God it may turn out the ace of trumps and not the two."

This was the beginning of an alliance between Tories, the Unionist business classes and the Order. As in the late 18th century, Orangemen were co-opted as part of a wider game. Orange lodges provided the framework for a citizen's army, the Ulster Volunteer Force, whose threat of force played a large part in persuading London that the largely Protestant north should be exempted from home rule. The UVF drilled in the Orange halls; then tens of thousands, at

the urging of their new leaders, joined the British army to fight in the First World War. Thousands lost their lives. Many were cut down at Thiepval wood, on the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, one witness recounting: "As they scrambled over the parapet they shouted the old battle cries, 'No surrender' and 'Remember 1690'. Many wore Orange ribbons and one sergeant of the Inniskillings had on his Orange sash."

From the outset, the new state of Northern Ireland took on a distinctly Orange coloration. An Orange lodge was established within the new police force, the RUC, while Orangemen made up the bulk of a new militia, the B Specials. In some areas the B Specials were based in Orange halls.

Politically too Orangism became an integral part of the state. James Craig, Northern Ireland's first prime minister, declaring: "I have always said I am an Orangeman first and a politician afterwards." A majority of Unionist cabinet ministers and MPs between then and 1972 were members of the Order; most Orange party meetings were held in Orange halls, while ministers used Orange platforms for important speeches. The power of the Order during those years has been described by two senior Methodists: "Membership was an indispensable condition of political advancement. It protected the employment of Protestants by its influence over employers, which is a polite way of saying that it contrived systematic discrimination against Catholics. Local authorities were dominated by members of the local lodges."

While nationalist marches were severely restricted, Orange marches became part of the fabric of Unionist rule, with the 12th of July effectively

becoming what has been described as a ritual of state. More than once, though, the Unionist government banned marches on public order grounds, only to back down under Orange pressure. The most notable example came in 1935 when it banned all processions. Faced with angry Orange opposition it relented and exempted Orange marches from the ban. In the subsequent rioting 11 people were killed, hundreds injured, more than 500 families driven from their homes and more than 2,000 Catholics expelled from their workplaces.

In modern times, even as the authorities grapple with the marching problem, they continue to rely on the Order for manpower. No figures are available for the numbers of security force personnel who are Orangemen, but the Order has made it known that around 13 per cent of RUC officers killed in the Troubles and around a quarter of Ulster Defence Regiment victims were members.

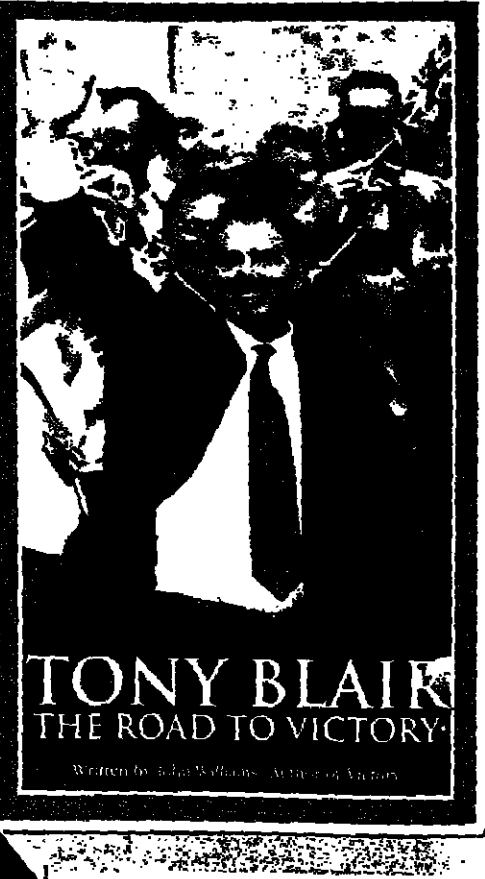
Today, as the shadow of the 12th of July looms once again, the Government would dearly love the Order to call off or re-route its more contentious marches. If it does not then the authorities can opt for bans or re-routing, yet they are all too painfully aware that these can lead to major trouble.

At worst, as at Drumcree last year, a show of Orange determination can succeed in forcing the authorities to give way and reverse their decision, thus undermining law and order once again. This Government, like all the others down through the centuries, knows that taking on the Orange Order means confronting one of Northern Ireland's most powerful pressure groups, and touching the deepest and most sensitive nerve of the Protestants of Ulster.



Triumphalism: Ormeau Road 1992, an Orangeman holds up five fingers as a parade passes the spot where five Catholics were shot dead by loyalist terrorists

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Want to be a journalist? Read on...

Young people occasionally ask me how they can get into journalism. No, that's not quite true. What usually happens is that their parents tell me that their children are desperate to get into journalism and ask me how they should go about it...

"Jeremy has worked on his school and university magazines and got a lot of experience."

"Right!"

"He was once on a school trip to *The Times* and caught the bug then."

"Of course he really wants to be a TV journalist, but you obviously have to go through the mill on the press side first."

"Do you? I mean, right?"

"So how would you recommend him to get into journalism?"

"I haven't the faintest idea."

They don't want that answer, honest though it is. They don't want me to tell them how I got into journalism (sitting at home for four years, writing stuff and sending it off). They don't want me to tell them to do a course or work up from the

bottom. They want a quick, clever answer. And I suddenly realised the other day that I do have a quick, clever answer.

I realised this because I became aware that we were nearing the end of the exam season and I still hadn't seen an article in a paper by a teenager called "My A-level Hell".

I see it almost every year. Some bright spark who has been through A-levels says to someone else: "Adults just don't know what it's like going through A-levels, because adults don't do exams any more."

And the other one says: "Someone should tell them," and one of them has the brilliant idea of writing an article about it and sending it off to a paper. Someone at the paper picks it up and thinks: "Hmm, we haven't had a 'My A-level Hell' piece this year. Might as well run it."

And they do, because A-levels are one of the few things along with puberty, adolescence, teenage delinquency, teen drugs and their first sexual experiences, that the average journalist can never again experience. So the teenage writer gets his piece in the paper and then one of two things happens.



Miles Kingston

Either he (or she) spends the money and forgets all about it, or she (or he, of course) gets the bug and starts writing more articles.

There are lots of things that a budding teenage writer can write about, all to do with being young, or at least being a lot younger than the journalists who will be accepting the article. May I suggest a few random headings for the budding journalist?

"What Youth REALLY thinks about drugs."

"How to Handle Parents."

"Spice Girls? Too Old for Me..."

"Why I Didn't Vote."
"Tim Henman a Role Model? You Must be Joking!"
"I'd Like to Give Up Smoking, But I Haven't Taken it Up Yet..."
"My First Day at University."

Now, all these things have something in common, which is that they represent subjects that middle-aged people are interested in - party politics, sex, lost college days. They are the very topics which the harassed features editor at the newspaper should be talking to his teenage children about, but isn't. So the harassed features editor takes articles like this as a sort of short cut to finding out what his own children are thinking, or even a substitute for talking to them. And once the young journalist has had half a dozen articles like this accepted, he or she is well on the way to being one of this year's bright new faces.

From my days at *Punch* I can remember one or two writers starting like this, and I am not talking about Alan Coren's family. I can remember the student competition we organised for the best piece on the subject: "What I did in the holidays".

Winner, Libby Purves. (She had worked for Radio Oxford in her holidays.) Another competition, a light verse one, was won by Terin Douglas, now the BBC's media correspondent.

But the best entrée to journalism I can remember was that of a young man who had not set out to become a journalist at all. He had set out to become a novelist. Indeed, he had written to all the living novelists he could think of asking them for advice on novel-writing, and quite a lot, including such famous ones as Graham Greene, had written back with friendly advice.

Did he set to and write a novel? Did he hell. He put all the postcards and letters together and made a feature out of them, which one of the Sunday papers published under a title like: "Hot Tips From The Great Novelists!" The day that this young man accepted money for his private correspondence and turned his back on their advice was the day that he decided not to be a novelist but to become a journalist instead.

I wonder what happened to him.

Let the City moan – the people's Budget is still a winner

Is the Budget unravelling? The Finance Bill sailed effortlessly through its second reading in the Commons yesterday. But that won't stop the complaining. The City is moaning that the Chancellor didn't do enough to put the brakes on the consumer boom. The pound remains unsustainably high and even in this monetarily "on message" government, it isn't hard to find the odd minister fretting about the high level of interest rates, raised another quarter point yesterday, and almost certain to go up yet another quarter before long. There is a ferocious backlash from the pension funds, including some operated by local authorities, about the fact that shareholders will lose their tax relief on dividends. The Liberal Democrats, not unreasonably, point out that Gordon Brown's upwards revision of the inflation forecasts means that he is preparing for an even more savage limit on public spending than he had previously let on. Quite a few economic analysts have found it impossible to resist the temptation to utter that heavy old truism, that budgets which look good on the day usually turn sour a couple of weeks later. Did we all get it wrong? In a *Fabian Review* article today, Peter Mandelson claims the public is still brimming with an optimism that he attributes to his party's ability to make hard choices in opposition. But could it be, given that the Budget is by quite a long way the most important measure the Government has taken since it came into office, that it heralds something larger, if almost unmentionable, than an end to the Blair honeymoon could be in sight?



Donald Macintyre
What this is about is making some enemies in the short term. Good. For it wasn't possible to cut the deficit without inflicting some pain

£4bn in each of two years (exclusive of the windfall tax) in his first Budget. Or that the hike would include additional consumer taxes, in the form of Miras cuts, increased stamp duty, petrol and tobacco taxes. Indeed the gamble Brown took was that some of Labour's supporters in Middle England may start grumbling when those rises, along with probable increases in contributions for those with personal pension plans, start to bite in the 1998-99 financial year. It seems, therefore, either churlish, or politically ultra-naïve, to complain that he didn't do more.

It's what Nigel Lawson, after his own bruising encounter with it, called the "awesome power of the pension-fund lobby" in defending pension tax privileges that is underlying the second row, that over the scrapping of the dividend tax credit. But the industry should take a little care. It is not exactly basking in public esteem after the fiasco of the late Eighties in which insurers and financial advisers wrongly advised about half a million people to take out private plans instead of staying with good occupational schemes. Especially when so pitifully little so far has been done to compensate the victims. A little more effective competition in the interest of the consumer is way overdue. It's true that while the funds in around half the top companies running their own occupational schemes have huge surpluses, now being bolstered by the increasing stock market values, the other half don't. But employers have historically played fast and loose with their pension schemes, taking "holidays" from paying their own contributions when it suited them. Brown has done what the Tory administration began and what Stephen Dorrell, when he was the Conservative Treasury Financial Secretary, tried and failed to complete – for exactly the same reasons. He too wanted to discourage the short-termism by encouraging firms to reinvest as well as pay short-term dividends, but he was stopped by pressure from the likes of Lord Hanson on John Major.

What this is really about is making some enemies, at least in the short term. Good. It's rather a relief to find the Government doing just that. For it was never possible to embark on an ambitious programme to reduce the deficit without inflicting some pain somewhere. Brown did indeed decide, windfall tax included, to inflict in his first Budget most of it in the corporate sector rather than primarily on individuals, by ending a tax anomaly much cherished by a vested interest that had bothered the Treasury for a long time. The result, as it happens, is that the Budget was – and remains – highly popular, according to all known measurements of public opinion. It may get a little less so when those taxes on consumers begin to bite. But those who argue for – say – immediate and total abolition of Miras, while defending the dividend tax credit, are merely saying that more of the revenue burden should fall on the middle-income homeowners and less on City institutions.

So Brown still looks as tough and populist as he did on 2 July. One further small but symbolic suggestion for how Blair and Brown could demonstrate both qualities still further: they should insist that another one-time opponent of the dividend tax credit measure, the former BP chairman Lord Simon, divests himself of the £2m in BP shares he was ineptly allowed to keep when he came into office.



I don't want to be in Labour's chain gang

In puritanical new Britain, Suzanne Moore makes a plea for leisure, and the right not to work

Work, work, work. Work is our duty, work is our salvation. Work is the answer to every question. Our welfare depends on work. Anyone who signs on for benefit "will be signing up for work", according to Gordon Brown. No one should expect something for nothing. Not the young unemployed, not mothers with children, and certainly not children. Single mothers should get back to work. Children should work in their holidays to catch up. They should join homework clubs. They should start school earlier. Latch-key kids should not be at home watching *Neighbours* when they could be in educational crammer projects.

Everyone should work harder at their relationships. Being a good parent is hard work but someone has got to do it. We must work to rebuild our communities. We should work at work, work at home, work through our problems, work out at the gym, work off our worries so that they don't affect our performance at work.

The work ethic central to the Blairite project is being happily swigged down left, right and centre. The new disciples are the workaholics, the fidlers and scroungers, the idlers or just anyone like myself who believes that there is more to life than work. The work ethic is being re-vamped: whereas at the height of Thatcherism work was good because greed was good and everything was about individual achievement, work is now a moral obligation that one undertakes for the common good. To not work when work

is available is no longer viable. "There will be no fifth option," as Gordon Brown said ominously in his Budget speech when discussing the four options to be offered to the young unemployed. The government's responsibility is to make work available, the individual's to take it no matter what it is. It is true of course that a job, however poorly paid, is often the first stepping stone for the long-term unemployed. It is also true that over-achieving politicians and think-tankers often have no experience themselves of doing boring, menial, repetitive tasks. They would be hard-pressed to find any meaning or dignity in the kinds of employment they feel young people should be compelled to take.

I have done enough mind-blowingly dull jobs in the past to know that those who talk only of careers exhibit little understanding of the reality of many working environments. The new chain-gangs will not be rock breakers but surly bunches of left insulators who happen to think that they are worth more than £20 a week.

The vast majority of single mothers will not become self-supporting through employment. Women who look after other women's children will often do so for way below any minimum wage. As Ceridwen Roberts, director of the Family Policy Studies Centre, asks, "Do we want a society which in practice only values employment, yet at the same time expects more of parents?" The

combination of paid work and caring that puts so much pressure on all kinds of families can only be relieved by policies that actually involve shorter working hours, more flexible working practices and parental leave for mothers and fathers.

The New Deal, with its innate puritanism, is but one test of how authoritarian this government will be. In many ways it seems remarkably old-fashioned. It sees work as the key site in which the individual connects to community and society. The dream is still of full employment, no matter what the economists say. The young must be pressed into work-schemes even if there are no jobs at the end. Most young people want real jobs for real money. Can you blame them?

Yet throughout the Tory years all sorts of other visions of collectivity and community emerged that had nothing to do with work – from the rave scene, from the new travellers, from football culture, even from the ragged-trousered road protesters. We can either file these away under *ad hoc* or we can see them as a New Labour rhetoric is likely to do, or we could ask instead for a new deal which accepts the changing relationship between work and leisure.

Who now remembers the futurologists of the Seventies such as Alvin Toffler or André Gorz? They offered up a future where we would all work less, where work would be redistributed, where the distinction between production and

consumption would become blurred. We would recognise that much of our so-called leisure time is spent producing goods and services for our own use – what Toffler called "prosumption". The question then is not work versus leisure but paid work versus unpaid, self-directed and self-monitored work. Parenting of course is just such work. To incorrectly define all unpaid work as leisure fuels the notion that we should not subsidise single mothers because they do nothing.

That may now seem very idealistic, but it is not as idealistic as pretending that full and stable employment will be there for everyone or that all work is fantastically worthwhile. Work is currently being switched from being a right to an obligation and those at the bottom of the heap will have fewer rights and more obligations than those at the top.

The assumption that this feeds the common good is a strange one when those who clearly do work towards the common good – health workers and teachers, for example – are not particularly well-rewarded.

for it either financially or in social status. Similarly those who cannot work, the very young, the old, the sick, those who are no longer productive, will increasingly be deemed to be a burden on those who can.

The paradox has been that as the nature of work has changed the language of the work-place has colonised every part of our private lives: the working out and through of problems, the grind of relationships, the toil of parenting, the managing of childcare which involves the learning of multi-skilling and the division of time into suitable chunks. What is the opposite of quality time? Quantity time? No way.

Who will speak up for idleness in such a world? Who will say that those who don't work or can't work may still have some value? Who will say that work is part of life but not its sole purpose? Who will defend the scroungers and the layabouts and the lazy and the conscientious objectors to the system, the very bogymen of this workaholic government? Who will strike out against this new work ethic on the grounds that it is neither ethical nor workable? It's a dirty job. So give it to some 20-year-old slacker. I've already got enough to do.

A secret weapon to swell the male ego

A glass of water, a quick swallow, and sexual satisfaction guaranteed. Or so the pharmaceutical company Pfizer, makers of the first pill for male impotence, would like the world to think.

Yesterday, the company confirmed it is to submit the pill – which, when taken an hour before love-making, is said to promise "enhanced sexual response" – to the US Food and Drug Administration for approval. If it is granted, probably later this year, it is certain to focus attention on the delicate matter of male performance and its importance in the achievement of conjugal bliss. For let us be clear about one thing. Despite being misleadingly dubbed the "good love pill", the new drug is not an aphrodisiac. A fortune still awaits the inventor of the potion that can truly stimulate sexual desire.

Pfizer's pill, the chemical name of which is sildenafil, boosts the male erection – but only when the spirit is willing. The company plans to market it under the name Viagra – a near combination of "vigorous" and "Niagara" conveying, to North Americans at least, the sense of an unstoppable flow. It has taken four years of tests and £30m of investment to get this far and the indications look good. Nine out of



Jeremy Lawrence
Dubbed 'the good love pill', the new drug to cure impotence is not an aphrodisiac. It can boost performance, but only when the spirit is willing

10 men who have tried it reported feeling 18 again, according to the company, although when one recalls the clumsiness, uncertainty and problems of premature ejaculation that bedevil that age group, it may strike women as a questionable accolade.

None the less a safe, effective treatment for impotence that was simple to use would bring much-needed relief to the one in 20 men said to suffer seriously from this distressing condition. It is its potential use by the rest of the male population – those, that is, who suffer temporarily from the problem (most common when it is also most embarrassing, at the start of a new relationship) – that raises more difficult questions.

It is the very unpleasantness of the existing treatments for impotence – injections, suction pumps and surgical prostheses – that deters all but the most seriously affected from using them. There is no doubt, however, that even these can transform a man's image of himself.

In Martin Harris's novel *Do It Again*, which contains one of the finest accounts of the triumph of a hard-won erection can bring, the protagonist visits a Harley Street clinic for an injection before leaping into a taxi to get home to his lover before its effects wear

off. As the taxi speeds along the raised section of motorway known as the Westway, he gazes out of the window at the concrete tower blocks soaring beside the road to pierce the sky and grins with manly pride.

This experience is not restricted to those who require an injection to achieve potency. A Durable and Excellent erection – hence the name Durex – is a thing of pride; and whatever polite women may say, size matters. A pill that delivered all this would have a serious, probably black, market.

Anyone who doubts that size matters should consider the difficulty condom manufacturers have had in selling their products in different measures. Even the addition of lines such as "a snugger fit – for extra sensitivity" have not succeeded in shifting the smaller versions. There is a story, although probably apocryphal, that during the war, when Russia appealed to Britain for extra supplies of condoms for its troops, Winston Churchill only agreed after ordering that the packets should be stamped "extra small".

Sildenafil, or Viagra, works by blocking the effect of an enzyme which causes erections to subside, thus prolonging and strengthening them. It does not automatically trigger

an erection as the injections do, leading to embarrassment at choir practice or on the bus home, but enhances the natural response to sexual stimulation. Despite company denials that it is a "penile enlargement" drug, this is clearly what it does.

It was originally investigated at Pfizer's laboratories in Kent as a treatment for heart problems. Although it had little effect on the cardiovascular system, male volunteers reported a pleasing side-effect. It was subsequently tested on 350 men in Bristol, Belfast, France and Sweden, who used it for four weeks. The results of that trial, presented to the American Urological Association last year, showed that 9 out of 10 reported better erections.

Some ludicrous claims have been made for the drug, such as that men using it have been able to sustain love-making for up to three hours at a time. It is not recorded how the lovers of these supermen felt, probably because their response was unprintable.

New studies of the drug are reported to have taken place in women, with similar impressive results. As with men, it sustains sexual arousal for longer by maintaining increased blood flow to the genitals, but has no aphrodisiac effect. None the less, this

has fed fears that a market for the drug could develop among unscrupulous men who wanted it to spike the drinks of girlfriends. Pfizer was saying little yesterday because of fears of breaching the industry code that forbids promotion of drugs.

A pill that improves the mechanics of sex is viewed with suspicion by women who think men's chief failing is that they regard sex as a mechanical process. Relationship counsellors warn that men who have difficulty with sex are aiming for the wrong thing if they treat it as a mechanical failure.

Suzie Hayman, author of the *Good Sex Guide*, said a man with the drug who had no care or skill would have far less of an effect than a man with smaller genitals who knew how to use them. "Many men think their equipment has to be the sexual equivalent of a Porsche. Women know that a well-driven Ford Escort is infinitely preferable to a badly-driven Porsche," she said.

But, for readers of *Do It Again*, it is London's landmarks that could be changed for ever by the arrival of such a pill. Will Cleopatra's Needle, Nelson's Column and even Canary Wharf, the tower in which this newspaper is based, be viewed with the same innocence again?

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Alexander Cordell

Alexander Cordell was a popular writer whose novels were read by people who do not usually read novels.

He wrote 28 of them, mainly historical romances which came perilously close, in the view of some critics, to bodice-rippers but which, for his many admirers, were exciting and well-researched yarns with a good deal of contemporary social significance. Opinion divides sharply over their literary merit, a consideration to which the author always declared himself deeply indifferent, preferring to point to their large sales in both Britain and the United States and the esteem in which he was held by that most genial section of the book-buying public, the common reader.

He was born George Alexander Gruber in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), in 1914, the son of a soldier. Much of his youth was spent in the Far East, particularly China, about which he was to write in *The Sins of Love* (1965), which is set in Hong Kong. *The Bright Cantonese* (1967), a spy story, and *The Dream and the Destiny* (1975), about the Long March of Mao Tse-tung. From 1932 he served in the British army and during the Second World War was promoted to the rank of major in the Royal Engineers.

Although he began to write shortly after demobilisation in 1946, his first novel, *A Thought of Honour*, was not published until 1954 and did not attract much public attention. He was, nevertheless, set on becoming a successful novelist and applied himself to the grind of writing with single-minded determination, keeping regular hours and letting nothing interfere with his schedule. Only rarely would he undertake journalistic work, though he was not averse, as his reputation grew, to giving younger writers the benefit of his experience and views, usually expressed trenchantly and with little sympathy for established writers. He was particu-

larly scornful of poets, urging them to tackle "something more substantial" — such as a novel.

Cordell first settled in Wales in 1950, working as a quantity surveyor in the western valleys of Monmouthshire. It was there, mainly around the old iron towns of Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar, an area which was one of the cradles of the Industrial Revolution, and now known as Cordell country, that he discovered the grim landscape and Radical politics which he was to make the stuff of his highly coloured novels.

It seems that he was genuinely taken, too, with the democratically minded people whom he encountered while carrying out research for his books, and despite his very aloof, English, military manner, many warmed to him and became his loyal readers. Popular interest in the local history of industrial South Wales was given a huge fillip by the fact that Cordell had brought the past to life in his novels in ways which ordinary people could understand and find useful, whatever professional historians might say about their authenticity.

His best-known novel, and an international best-seller, was *Rape of the Fair Country* (1959), the first of a trilogy about life in early industrial Wales which also included *The Hosts of Rebecca* (1960) and *Song of the Earth* (1969), published in the United States as *Rehe of Honour*. These books present romanticised accounts of the struggle for trade-union rights in the ironworks, of the Chartist movement which excited the author profoundly, and of the Rebecca Riots, a major social disturbance in west Wales which broke out in 1839 and took the form of attacks on toll-gates by armed gangs of men dressed as women.

The historical events depicted by Cordell are as vivid as the larger-than-life characters who act out their own personal dramas in his books. They include, for the most part, marginalised

people, victims of their time and place, who nevertheless manage to rise above their circumstances and make their mark on the society by which they are oppressed, albeit as part of the anonymous, and unsung, crowd.

What has embarrassed some readers is his insistence on introducing romantic interest into his plots, at which he was not adept, and dialogue which, for Welsh readers in particular, is sometimes excruciating in its inversions, phoney idiom and pseudo-poetic lilt. As with Richard Llewellyn's *How Green was my Valley* (1939), Cordell's novels were controversial in Wales on account of the picture they gave of local society, morals and way of life, and few have been able to appreciate them for the fiction which they so obviously are.

Cordell was dismissive of any criticism on this score, nurturing an implacable suspicion that there was a conspiracy against him among literary critics in Wales, which extended to the Arts Council and the Welsh Academy (the national society of writers). He made few friends in the republic of letters, largely as a consequence of his opinionated antipathy towards fellow writers and his penchant for self-publicity in the press which endeared him to few.

When in 1971 the Welsh Arts Council invited the playwright Eugene Ionesco to visit Wales and receive its International Writer's Prize, Cordell dashed off a letter to the *Western Mail* complaining that it was scandalous to be giving money to a rich organisation like Unesco when it would have been better spent on writers. His attempts to persuade the council to establish a prize for novelists, to be named after him, was thereafter given a frosty reception for which he never forgave it.

Nevertheless, such was the success of his "Welsh" novels that Cordell was encouraged to write a second trilogy dealing with much the same subject-

matter. In *The Fire People* (1972), about the Merthyr Rising of 1831, he told the story of Richard Lewis, a young miner known to history by his sobriquet Dic Penderyn, "the first martyr of the Welsh working class", who was hanged in Cardiff for the alleged wounding of one of the soldiers sent to Merthyr to put down the armed insurrection by the town's workers.

This second trilogy was completed with the publication of *This Sweet and Bitter Earth* (1977), which deals with the Penrhyn Quarry Lock-out of 1896-1903 and the Tonypandy Riots of 1910, and *Land of My Fathers* (1983), which revisits

South Wales during the Chartist period.

Those who tended to scorn the historical authenticity of Cordell's novels had to pause for reflection with the appearance of *The Fire People*. Dic Penderyn had gone to the scaffold protesting his innocence and there was widespread sympathy for the view that he had been made a scapegoat by the ironmasters. In his novel Cordell revealed details, found in official documents and subsequently confirmed, that some 40 years after the rising, a man living in America had confessed to the crime for which Dic had been executed. For this, and for his firm grasp of the political real-

ities of the day, the author earned the warm regard of Gwyn A. Williams, the leading historian of South Wales in its revolutionary heyday. Another historian of the same period, Dai Smith, has compared him with Howard Fast, author of the novel *Spartacus* (1951), in the painstaking detail and swashbuckling sweep of his narratives.

Cordell claimed that in the 1930s he had been a Marxist and he certainly remained on the political left for the rest of his life. A late statement of his Communist sympathies is to be read in *To Slay the Dreamer* (1980), a story set against the background of the Civil War in Spain, al-

though there is ample evidence of his views in almost all his novels, including the trilogy (1971) for younger readers about the 1798 Rebellion in Ireland. His last novel, *Send Her Victorious*, was published last month.

Although he was not active on behalf of any political party, Cordell's long residence in Wales (interrupted only by residence in the Isle of Man during the 1970s) gave him a certain sympathy for the idea of Welsh self-government, and shortly before the general election of May 1997 he announced from his home in Wrexham that he had joined Plaid Cymru, having recognised in Dafydd Wigley MP, the party's

President (at last, the cynics sighed), the kind of democratic socialism in which he had always believed.

The cause of Alexander Cordell's death has not yet been established. His body was found on 9 July in a stream near a disused quarry and is believed to have lain there for a few days; he was clutching family photographs. The police say that foul play is not suspected.

Mele Stephens

George Alexander Gruber (Alexander Cordell), novelist; born Colombo, Ceylon 9 September 1914; twice married (one daughter); died near Llangollen, Denbighshire 9 July 1997.

Photograph: Vic Cleary

Hamish Nicol

As one of the leading British mountaineers of his generation, Hamish Nicol narrowly missed a place on the 1953 Everest expedition. Throughout his career as a successful doctor, mountains remained his great recreation. He died after a fall whilst rock climbing at Land's End.

Nicol was born in Hong Kong in 1929. During the Second World War, while his father was interned by the Japanese, he was evacuated to Canada with his mother. After the war the family lived in Edinburgh, where he attended Fettes College and Edinburgh University, reading French and Economics. He left Edinburgh in 1947 to do his National Service in the Royal Artillery, then went up to Balliol College, Oxford, to read Medicine.

By now he had already spent one season climbing in the Alps, and a contemporary in the Oxford University Mountaineering Club, Michael Westmacott, recalls that "when Hamish arrived, he certainly made waves. He was extremely energetic and enthusiastic."

For his second Alpine season, in 1950, Nicol teamed up with another Balliol mountaineer, Tom Bourdillon, to make the first British ascent of the north face of the Dru, above Chamonix. In those days the route had a formidable reputation and this was the first time for many years that British climbers had tackled anything so close to the cutting edge of alpinism.

Equally ambitious in his native Scottish hills, Nicol the

following winter attempted the then unclimbed, notorious ice runnel of Zero Gully, on Ben Nevis. At that time ice climbing was still an extremely precarious business and he fell off, sustaining serious injuries. That accident, together with another unlucky slip in 1952, may have been the reason he was not selected for Everest in 1953. He was, however, asked to be a reserve member of the team. While his friend Bourdillon reached the south summit of Everest, Nicol returned to Oxford, celebrating the Coronation with a night ascent of that masterpiece of English baroque, the Radcliffe Camera, leaving a white bow tie on the summit.

In 1955 both men returned to the Alps climbing some of the hardest routes in the Mont Blanc massif and crowning a brilliant season with an early repeat of the east face of the Grand Capucin. This spectacular impending wall of red granite, first climbed in 1951 by

the Italian master Walter Bonatti, required advanced artificial technique using pitons — a technique which the Englishmen had first practised on a suitably overhanging tree in Bourdillon's Buckinghamshire garden.

They intended to climb together again the following summer, but Nicol arrived a day after his friend at the remote Balthiedertal, in Switzerland, to find Bourdillon and another contemporary, Dick Viney, lying roped together, dead, at the foot of a climb. Writing in the *Alpine Journal* much later, Nicol recalled:

They were buried simply in Vesp cemetery after a short service of which I could see and hear nothing because my eyes were tight shut. It seemed to be the only thing to do, the only way I could attempt to blot out the awfulness of that dreadful day.

Even now, nearly 40 years later, I am unable to speak about it or confront it without emotion... I did not climb again for five years and came back to it slowly, at a much lower standard, in 1961.

He turned to medicine, gaining wide clinical experience as casualty officer, house surgeon and anaesthetist at St Thomas's Hospital, London, then in obstetrics and gynaecology at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury. In 1958 he married another doctor, Mary Walker, and the two of them moved to Stratford-upon-Avon, to join the practice of Archibald McWhinney.

Nicol loved the life of a GP, and brought to it his own adventurous energy, at one stage, for instance, taking a course in hypnosis to enhance his treat-

ment of patients with psychological problems. He also took a keen interest in the ambulance service, initiating a training course in advanced life-support skills, which resulted in many saved lives in south Warwickshire.

The Nicols had a son and a daughter and family holidays were usually spent in the mountains, walking, skiing and canoeing. At a more ambitious level, Nicol, despite his claim to be a poor skier, took part in the 1972 British ski traverse of the Alps. He climbed several Himalayan peaks and continued throughout his life to enjoy rock climbing in Britain.

Like the other reserves, he remained very much a part of the 1953 Everest team, regularly attending reunions in Snowdonia, the Alps and Nepal, where he and his wife devoted many hours to the medical needs of local people at impromptu camp surgeries. He was a vice-president of the Alpine Club (1986-87) and served as president of the Climbers Club from 1972, the year it decided to admit women members, until 1975.

Hamish Nicol was a popular man; his funeral was attended by over 600 colleagues, patients and mountaineers, who will miss his wit and his infectious enthusiasm.

Stephen Venables

Hamish Gordon Nicol, medical practitioner and mountaineer; born Hong Kong 6 June 1929; married 1958; Mary Walker (one son, one daughter); died 17 May 1997.

Derek Salberg

The Salbergs, Derek and his father Leon (1875-1937) whom he succeeded, had a proud and unique record as theatre proprietors. They ran their Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham for 66 years from 1911 to 1977 and through their Christmas pantomimes introduced countless Brummies to the magic of the theatre.

The critic J. C. Trewin acknowledged that he had never known better pantomimes than those staged by Derek Salberg. He proclaimed them as annual miracles.

In his time Salberg faced intense competition from the major circuits of Ross Empires and Howard and Wyndham. Even so, he diligently sought out established artists well versed in the art of pantomime. His principal boys ranged from the high-spirited Dorothy Ward to the most charming of all Prince Charmings, Adele Dixon. Jack Tripp and George Lacy, whom he described as a genius, were his favourite dames. Among his principal comedians were Wee Georgie Wood and the loquacious George Doonan.

They and their like provided a sure framework for the telling of a pantomime story that allowed for the inclusion, but not the intrusion, of speciality turns such as the much-loved Wilson-Keppler and Betty and for the introduction and instruction of less experienced performers. Although modesty prevented Salberg from claiming to be a maker of stars, nevertheless he did foster the early careers of Norman Wisdom, Noele Gordon, More-

cambe and Wise, Frank Ifield and Jim Davidson by featuring them in his pantomimes.

In spite of his success as a "King of Pantomime" (how he hated that title), his greatest satisfaction derived from the plays presented by the resident Alexandra Theatre Repertory Company founded by his father in 1927 and inherited by him in 1937. He presided over the company's annual season for 37 years. Kenneth More, Brenda Bruce, Joan Miller and Alec McCowen were just a few of the names which can be found in the lists of his repertory players.

He was a gracious host to the members of the many touring productions which from 1941 onwards visited his theatre. The first were dancers of the Ballet Rambert Company but, reflecting his theatrical tastes, most were actors appearing in straight plays. Opera was regularly seen under the aegis of the Welsh National, Sadler's Wells and D'Oyly Carte companies. There were, however, few musical comedies — Salberg confessed he was not a lover of them.

He was fair and firm in his dealings. He was prepared to offer (and accept) criticism. When he ticked you off you felt admonished but later he let you know you had been forgiven. When he gave praise he did so privately and it was to be prized. Those who sought compliments from him were rebuffed.

In Birmingham his activities extended well beyond the theatre. He was appointed a city magistrate in 1961, and in the



The first to arrive: Salberg portrayed by John M. Bell, 1977

same year received the gold medal of the Birmingham Civic Society for outstanding services to the city. He was a lifelong supporter of the Warwickshire County Cricket Club, and served on the club's General Committee of the club for 26 years; he was appointed a Vice-President in 1984. Nationally he served on the Drama Panel of the Arts Council of Great Britain and on the boards of the Sadler's Wells Theatre Trust, the National Theatre and the Birmingham Repertory Theatre; he was also a consultant to the Old Vic Theatre Trust.

In retirement Derek Salberg wrote five entertaining books, four of them theatrical in their content. The fifth, *Much Ado About Cricket* (1987), has a foreword by Brian Johnston, who describes it as "a labour of love... the satisfaction of

putting on paper one's pent-up memories, simply a way of recording gratitude and appreciation to the greatest of all games."

Derek Salberg was devoted to his grandchildren, to his daughters and to his wife, Joan. Not only did she design the costumes for his pantomimes but she sustained him through times of financial crisis and protected him when he suffered a mild and fortunately short-lived nervous illness. She was an inspirational cook, a knowledgeable gardener and a proficient decorator, all skills he lacked.

In addition to his own family, there was his theatre family which comprised all the people who worked for him at the Alex. "DS" greeted them individually every morning — he was always the first to arrive. His audiences, too, he welcomed in the foyer and there bade them farewell after each performance.

In 1994 one Brummi, then aged 84, recalling her childhood of abject poverty and her first job in a mop factory, said, "Do you know the best thing I ever saw? It was a pantomime at the Alex and the girls in the mop factory took me. I'd never seen fairies before."

Peter Arculus

Derek Salberg, theatre director; born Birmingham 10 July 1912; Director, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham 1936-77; OBE 1963, CBE 1978; married 1939; Joan Horstead (died 1972; two daughters); died Birmingham 29 June 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

OXLEY: Ursula (nee Cartledge), on 26 June 1997, at her home in Herts, 78, died. She was the widow of a late Mr. Ursula Cartledge, who died in 1981. She was the mother of three children: Clare, Paul, Louise and Edwin and their families.

RIXON: Andrew David, on Monday 7 July, age 33, after a brave fight against cancer. A dearly loved son and brother, and fiance of Laura. Sadly missed by his family, friends and colleagues at the Macclesfield Company. Funeral on Monday 14 July at 3pm, at St Anne's Church, Lichfield, Cheshire. Donations, please, to any cancer charity. All enquiries to Francis and C. Walters (Lichfield), telephone 0171-887 2928.

SUGDEN: Catherine Bernadette, on 4 July 1997, peacefully at St Mary's Hospital, London. Funeral service at Kensal Green Cemetery (West London Crematorium), London, Monday 14 July 1997 at 3.15pm. Flowers to Duncton and English, 141 Fortes Road, Kentish Town, London NW5 2HS.

Announcements for GASTRO BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, (telephone 0171-235 2011, 24-hour answering machine 0171-235 2013) or faxed to 0171-235 2010, and are charged at 60p a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock, 60; Sir John Blofield, High Court judge, 65; The Right Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, 50; Mr Bill Crozier, radio producer, 75; Mr Peter de Souza, entrepreneur and yachtsman, 53; The Hon. Geoffrey Janner, former MP, 69; Mr Theodore Maiman, physicist, 70; Miss Julia Trevelyan Oman, television, film and theatre designer, 67; Mr Hermann Frey, baritone, 68; Mr Glyn Slough, former Headmaster, University College School, 60; Dr Derek Stevenson, former secretary, BMA, 86; Mr John Swift, Rail Regulator, 57; Mr Richard Thomas, High Commissioner to Barbados, Grenada and St Vincent, 58; Mr Gough Whitlam QC, former Australian prime minister, 81.

Anniversaries

Births: Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland, 1274; Thomas Walsley,

founder of the Lancer, 1795; Deaths: Alfred Dreyfus, soldier, 1935; George Gershwin, composer, 1937; Sir Arthur John Evans, archaeologist, 1941. On this day: Waterloo Station, London, was officially opened, 1848; the Britannia Road Bridge over the Mersey Strait was opened by the Prince of Wales, 1980. Today is the Feast Day of St Benedict, St Erosian, St Hilul, St John of Bergamo, St Olga.

Synagogue services: Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 9.01pm.

United Synagogue: 0181-343 9989. Reform Synagogue: 0181-281 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogue of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-389 1573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Band, mounted on the Queen's Life Guard at White Horse, 1pm. The Household Cavalry Band, mounted on the Queen's Life Guard at White Horse, 1pm. The Household Cavalry Band, mounted on the Queen's Life Guard at White Horse, 1pm.

Doctor cannot claim racial discrimination against PPP

Tatari v Private Patients Plan Ltd. Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Roch and Sir John Balcombe) 8 July 1997

The refusal of a medical insurance company to place a doctor on its list of specialists because it did not recognise her EEC certificate of specialist training was not discrimination contrary to the Race Relations Act 1976, since the company was not an authority or body which could confer an authorisation or qualification which was needed for or facilitated engagement in the practice of a profession within the meaning of section 12 of the Act.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appellant's appeal against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, which had declined to entertain her claim that Private Patients Plan Ltd ("PPP") had discriminated against her on grounds of race.

LAW REPORT

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Lord Justice Beldam said that the appellant was a registered medical practitioner. She was a British citizen but was Greek by birth. She had qualified as a doctor at Athens University and had held a number of hospital posts as a surgeon in the United Kingdom. In 1979 she had been admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. She had been granted a Specialist Certificate (EEC) in plastic and reconstructive surgery by Athens University in 1986. Since 1988 she had been in private practice as a plastic surgeon in London.

The General Medical Council maintained a specialist list in accordance with Article 6 of the Medical Qualifications (EEC) Recognition Order 1977, and the appellant was recognised by it as having the right to practise plastic surgery in this country.

LAW REPORT

11 July 1997

medical care and specialist treatment. A specialist was defined in PPP's policies as a registered medical practitioner who had either held a post as consultant in an NHS hospital, or had a certificate of higher specialist training from the appropriate Royal College or Faculty.

The appellant had applied to be added to PPP's list of specialists, but PPP had told her that it could not grant her specialist recognition since it did not recognise any EEC certificate of higher specialist training. She had complained to the Industrial Tribunal, stating that she believed she had been discriminated against on grounds of her nationality contrary to section 1(1)(b) of the Race Relations Act 1976.

Before the Industrial Tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal it had been argued on the appellant's behalf that PPP was an authority or body to which the

provisions of section 12 of the 1976 Act applied, but both tribunals had rejected that argument.

The appellant contended that section 12 should be given a wide interpretation, relying on *British Judo Association v Penny* (1981) ICR 660. Where the GMC had complied with Article 6 Directive 93/16 of the EC by placing her on its specialist list, a private body could not, in effect, block access to a substantial part of the market by refusing recognition. The word "body" should be given a broad interpretation and should not be confined to "non-commercial bodies".

PPP argued that it was not a body which could confer recognition, authorisation or approval to practise the profession of medicine, nor was it a body whose approval was necessary to facilitate the practice of the profession. It was entitled to agree with its policy-

holders the qualifications which were appropriate for the treatment provided under the terms of the policy.

Section 12 had to be read as a whole and not piecemeal. The kind of bodies to which it referred were those similar to authorities which were empowered to grant qualifications or recognition for the purpose of practising a profession, calling, trade or activity.

Section 12, referring as it did to an authority which conferred recognition or approval, referred to a body which had the power or authority to confer on a person a professional qualification or other approval needed to enable him to practise a profession, exercise a calling or take part in some other activity. It did not refer to a body which was not so authorised or empowered, but which stipulated that for the purpose of its commercial agreements a particular qualification was required. The appeal was accordingly dismissed.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

FINANCIAL JOURNAL
OF THE YEAR

business & city

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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Heads roll at Hambros over Co-op bid

Norton Rose report prompts resignations

Tom Stevenson
and Nigel Cope

The axe fell at Hambros yesterday, as senior corporate financiers took responsibility for the bank's role in the £1.2bn failed bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Three of the bankers closest to the affair resigned after being criticised in a report by the Norton Rose firm of solicitors.

The report said there were failures in the implementation of Hambros' internal control procedures and that the conduct of the Hambros employees involved in the Co-op bid, "fell well short of the standards of good business practice".

Carrying the can for Hambros are Nigel Pantling, head of corporate finance, and Peter Large and Andrew Salmon, both of whom were directly involved in the deal. Disciplinary action is also to be taken against other Hambros employees involved in advising Andrew Regan, the entrepreneur, and his Galileo takeover vehicle in its discredited bid for the Co-op.

Mr Regan said yesterday: "Having stood alone for so many weeks taking all the flak, I am delighted that the true story surrounding the CWS bid is beginning to emerge. The events

of this week make it perfectly clear that the advice Galileo paid so many millions of pounds for, and followed every inch of the way, was inept."

The report, which the bank says will not be made public, concluded: "Those at Hambros who knew that confidential information from the CWS had or might become available without proper authority failed to appreciate that it was not appropriate for them either to receive or use that information".

The investigation also found failures of implementation of Hambros' internal control procedures although the procedures themselves were not believed to be seriously deficient. It recommended changes to tighten internal controls and the introduction of new measures.

Those changes include client and transaction clearance procedures, and a strengthening of the compliance function and its relationship with the corporate finance division. Hambros said it would introduce the changes as quickly as possible and institute further reviews of its high level controls.

The Norton Rose report is the latest in a string of embarrassments the CWS bid has caused for Hambros. It has been forced to make an unre-



(From left) Nigel Pantling, one of those who resigned yesterday, and Sir Chips Keswick and Lord Hambro, whose actions will be studied by the regulators



served apology to the CWS, pay £750,000 in compensation, and has now lost three of its senior executives.

The bid collapsed after a sustained counter attack through the courts by CWS and the withdrawal of financial backing for the ambitious plan.

Hambros supported its client to the bitter end, despite repeated questioning from Graham Melmoth, CWS chief executive, about the use of con-

fidential Co-op documents. Mr Regan, his business associate, David Lyons, and former CWS retail controller, Allan Green, still face possible prosecution by the Crown Prosecution Service, which took over a private action launched by the CWS.

Hambros said yesterday it was unable to publish the report in full for legal reasons but had handed it on to the Bank of England and the Securities and Futures Authority. Rival

bankers said the continuing uncertainty caused by the non-publication would further damage the bank's reputation and depress already low morale.

One said: "This is probably the end of Hambros as a serious force in corporate finance. They have been struggling for some time." Hambros has been attempting to rebuild its corporate finance operation, which continues to generate poor returns.

Attention will now shift to whether the Bank of England and the SFA will take further action, either against the three bankers who have resigned or against more senior figures at Hambros. It is understood the regulators will look at the extent to which Sir Chips Keswick, chief executive, and Lord Hambro, chairman, were aware their client was mounting a bid with allegedly stolen information.

Even after Mr Green, the CWS director, admitted in court that he had handed confidential information to Mr Regan, Lord Hambro stood by his bank's client. Hambros said that having taken legal advice and assessing the ramifications it had decided to support Mr Regan in developing his Co-op bid. The three Hambros executives are just the latest in a string of casualties from the Co-op affair. Earlier this week Nigel Campion-Smith, a partner at Mr

Having stood alone for so many weeks taking all the flak, I am delighted that the true story surrounding the CWS bid is beginning to emerge. The events of this week make it perfectly clear that the advice Galileo paid so many millions of pounds for, and followed every inch of the way, was inept.

Andrew Regan

Regan's lawyers Travers Smith Braithwaite, resigned to save the firm further "embarrassment". Mr Regan yesterday closed his astonishing attack on his advisers by saying: "I always believed I could rely on my City advisers, but the unpublished Norton Rose report obviously shows that I was wrong to do so. I, and Galileo's other investors, still await an apology from those who took Galileo's money."

Comment, page 23

Pound drops as Bank raises base rate

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

The Bank of England's decision to raise interest rates by a quarter point yesterday sent the pound lower on the foreign exchange and led many City economists to warn that further increases in the cost of borrowing would be needed before long.

Abbey National was the first lender to increase its mortgage rate, announcing a quarter-point rise which will add more than £7 a month to the cost of a typical

£50,000 home loan. It is likely to be followed by Cheltenham & Gloucester and TSB, both owned by Lloyds Bank, today.

Other big lenders said they would keep their position under review for the time being, but most are likely to follow suit.

Business reaction to the Bank's decision, which had been widely expected, was at best lukewarm. Industrialists warned that rising interest rates would keep the pound painfully strong and damage exports.

Adam Turner, director-general of the Confederation of British

Industry, "reluctantly accepted" the need for yesterday's action. But he said: "Further interest rate rises in the short term would be unwelcome."

The Engineering Employers Federation, which this week reported a sharp slowdown in export orders, "regretted" the move. Alan Armitage, head of economics, said: "If the pound rises further as a consequence, exports will suffer further."

Both the CBI and the British Chambers of Commerce said the Budget had not been tough enough, leaving it up to the

Bank of England to cool the overheating economy. Ian Peters of the BCC said: "We are witnessing the results of a Budget in which political expediency took precedence over the country's well-being."

However, the Chancellor and Bank of England were careful to back each other's moves. Gordon Brown said: "The Bank of England has agreed with me that we must prevent a return to the cycle of boom and bust." Inflationary pressures had to be brought under control, he said. The statement from the

Bank's monetary policy committee said the combination of fast consumer spending growth and the further strengthening of the pound had "sharpened the dilemma" for monetary policy.

But new, higher estimates for the level of output and the growth of sales made an interest rate increase necessary, "notwithstanding the further appreciation of the exchange rate and the contractionary effects of the recent Budget".

Some City economists thought the Bank should have opted for a bigger rate increase

yesterday. Disappointment at the quarter-point move was given as a reason for a drop in the pound yesterday.

It lost more than a pence against the German mark to end at just under DM12.97. Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "This reflects the number of people who had hoped for more and decided to take profits."

Many in the City were predicting another rate rise next month, although this will depend on a series of economic figures due in the next few weeks.

Judge criticises receivers' bill for Maxwell estate

John Willcock

The receivers of the late Robert Maxwell's personal estate were criticised by a High Court judge yesterday for the "shameful" and "shocking" level of fees incurred in winding up the estate, which he said were likely to swallow up all the money recovered for creditors.

The ruling, by Mr Justice Ferris, who also blocked clearance for a £500,000 tranche of professional fees, will have a widespread impact on the way receivers are paid. Since Mr Maxwell's death £1.4m has been recovered for the former Mirror Group Newspapers chief's personal estate, and another £300,000 is expected.

But the bill from receivers Peter Phillips, David Buchler and Edward Wacey of Buchler Phillips had reached £744,289 by the end of April 1997, and solicitors Nabarro Nathanson, appointed by the court to assist the insolvency firm, had produced a bill for £705,283 by the end of March.

The judge said Mr Maxwell, who died in November 1991, left behind "a complex web of insolvent claims, cross claims and other disputes". He said there was no doubt that Mr Maxwell's estate was "massively insolvent". But he said that "if the amounts claimed are allowed in full, this receivership will have produced substantial rewards for the receivers and

their lawyers and nothing at all for creditors of the estate".

The case was brought by the receivers, who wanted to establish whether they were able to keep the cash retrieved so far in payment for both the lawyers' fees and their own bills.

This followed bitter criticism of their fees by MPs on the Social Security Committee in both 1992 and 1994. The MPs concluded in 1994 that the fee levels had "rendered significant damage to the image of the insolvency profession".

Mr Phillips responded to the court judgment yesterday, saying: "The winding up of the Maxwell estate and the affairs surrounding the business empire of the late Robert Maxwell was one of the most complex undertaken this century to identify and track down assets. Despite considerable efforts in good faith to investigate the identity and whereabouts of assets, the funds eventually left to the estate proved to be minimal."

The Society of Practitioners of Insolvency (SPI), the professional body representing UK receivers, has recognised the public sensitivity of the fee issue. Brendan Gifford, the president of the SPI and a partner with accountants Geoffrey Martin and Co, said yesterday: "Whilst we cannot comment on the details of what is an unusual and untypical case, we warmly welcome many of the principles set out in the judgment."

£50m Jarvis rail deal under fire

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

A £55m deal by Jarvis, the Essex construction group, to buy two privatised railway track renewal companies (TRCs) is facing a barrage of complaints from rivals, which are pushing for an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

At least one other construction company, which also bought into the privatised rail business, has urged the Office of Fair Trading to block the deal on competition grounds. One complaint, understood to be from Amey, the Oxfordshire construction company, argued the consolidation would restrict the leasing market for heavy plant and machinery.

The two acquisitions by Jarvis would give the company control over four of the six track renewal companies. Jarvis is paying £50m for Fastline, formed from a management buyout of Eastern TRC, which later bought Northern TRC.

A separate deal involves paying £5m for the 50 per cent of another company, Relayfast,

which Jarvis does not already own.

Relayfast is responsible for Western and Scotland TRCs. Jarvis transformed itself in one year from a loss-making construction group after buying Northern Infrastructure Maintenance Company, one of seven maintenance businesses (IMCs) hived off from the old British Rail.

An MMC reference would postpone the latest round of windfalls for former British Rail managers. David Doggett, Fastline's managing director, would see his £50,000 investment turned into £2.6m in cash and shares on completion of the takeover.

The row is over the spoils of £1bn worth of Railtrack contracts for track renewals and maintenance work. The complaint alleges that Jarvis has indicated it would double charges for leasing some specialist machinery such as machines to compact ballast under rail sleepers.

Paris Moayed, Jarvis chairman, described the allegations that plant hire prices would double as "absolute nonsense".

Eurotunnel sees off liquidation threat as investors back rescue

Michael Harrison
Paris

Eurotunnel last night escaped the threat of liquidation after a stormy shareholders' meeting in Paris voted to back a controversial debt restructuring deal that will give its banks a controlling stake in the Channel Tunnel.

The marathon meeting, attended by more than 1,700 shareholders, gave the Eurotunnel board a rough and rancorous ride, at times drowning out the chairman, Patrick Ponsolle, with chants of "Ponsolle out".

But at the end of the seven-hour encounter at the Palais des Congrès on the outskirts of the French capital, the plan to reschedule Eurotunnel's £9bn debt mountain through a debt-equity swap, and in the process give the banks a 60 per cent stake in the tunnel, was safely approved.

Eurotunnel needed 25 per cent of its shareholders to be represented for the meeting to go ahead and then it required the support of 75 per cent of the votes cast to get the restructuring approved. In the event

78,254 of Eurotunnel's 720,000 long-suffering shareholders owning 272.5 million shares, or 29.62 per cent of the company, were represented.

Mr Ponsolle arrived at the meeting with 178 million proxies in his back pocket, making victory for the board an odds-on bet. Shareholder action groups speaking for a further 3 per cent of the equity had also pledged to vote their proxies in his favour. But that did not stop 60 per cent when the equity units convert into Eurotunnel units but existing shareholders could in theory retain majority control over the tunnel by exercising in full two sets of warrants being issued.

Eurotunnel's hopes of getting shareholder approval for the restructuring improved markedly last month after the British and French governments agreed to extend its concession to at least 99 years. The approval was conditional on the debt restructuring plan being passed by both Eurotunnel's shareholders and its banking

syndicate, which will vote on the deal in autumn. In return for extending the concession from 2052 to 2086, the two governments will take a share in revenues generated over that period. Eurotunnel must also undertake to maximise the use of the tunnel by rail freight as part of a wider European initiative to get freight of the roads and onto trains.

The prospectus for the refinancing forecast that Eurotunnel could break into profit in 2005 and start paying a dividend in 2006. It also produced an upper case forecast, projecting profits of £110m in 2005 provided it had secured an extension to its concession.

The approval of all 174 banks making up the loan syndicate is still needed for the restructuring to proceed. This is expected to take until autumn. But Eurotunnel's prospects of getting the backing of the syndicate have increased since it emerged in May that a handful of big US banks, led by Lazard Freres, have acquired nearly a quarter of Eurotunnel's debt.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low
FTSE 100	4762.40	+3.90	+0.1	4831.70	4056.60
FTSE 250	4395.50	-5.30	-0.1	4729.40	4395.50
FTSE 350	2886.00	+1.00	+0.0	2320.90	2017.90
FTSE Smallcap	2012.97	-4.31	-0.2	2374.20	2178.29
FT All-Share	2226.64	+0.98	+0.0	2269.36	1989.78
New York	7842.43	-119.88	-1.5	7962.31	5032.94
Tokyo	19697.17	-158.72	-0.8	20681.07	17303.85
Hong Kong	14703.73	-88.44	-0.6	15196.79	12066.17
Frankfurt	4055.86	+49.46	+1.2	4055.86	2848.77

Statistics as at 10 July

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling*	UK medium gilt	US long bond	10-year US	3-month US	90-day US
2.25	6.81	7.24	7.08	7.11	8.01
2.25	6.81	7.24	7.08	7.11	8.01
2.25	6.81	7.24	7.08	7.11	8.01
2.25	6.81	7.24	7.08	7.11	8.01
2.25	6.81	7.24	7.08	7.11	8.01

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	DM/\$	¥/\$	DM/¥
1.6855	0.5933	164.32	1.6855	0.5933	164.32
1.6855	0.5933	164.32	1.6855	0.5933	164.32
1.6855	0.5933	164.32	1.6855	0.5933	164.32
1.6855	0.5933	164.32	1.6855	0.5933	164.32
1.6855	0.5933	164.32	1.6855	0.5933	164.32

Treasury plans to soften FIDs blow

Sameena Ahmad

The Treasury said yesterday it was discussing with companies how to soften the blow from last week's controversial Budget to abolish foreign income dividends (FIDs) by 1999.

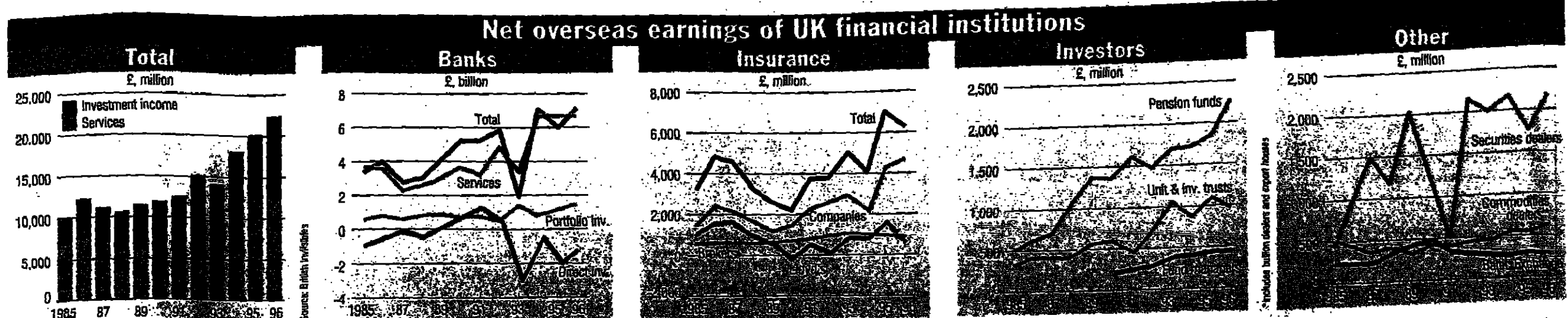
Alastair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "There's no question of any U-turn." However he said Geoffrey Robinson, the paymaster-general, had already told parliament that ministers were looking at the implications of the proposal because they were anxious to encourage UK companies to stay and invest in Britain. FIDs were introduced in 1993 to prevent companies from paying tax twice on overseas earnings.

Observers said, though, that a climbdown looked inevitable: "No-one expects the Government to simply say it is not now abolishing FIDs. That would be too embarrassing. But they have clearly not thought through the implications. They are losing revenue as companies are starting to pay FIDs before abolition."

A Treasury spokesman denied it had not thought through the proposal: "FIDs are a very complex matter. We've got two years to sort this out."

He ruled out an announcement today but said changes to the Budget measure were possible during the current drafting of the Finance Bill.

Industry bosses said the Government could broaden the definition of an international headquarters company (IHC) to include UK groups with substantial overseas earnings. The Budget states that IHCs defined as companies wholly owned by foreign parents, would be allowed to continue paying FIDs.

22
business

Britain's financial services industry made record overseas earnings of almost £23bn last year. The industry's contribution to the balance of payments rose by £2bn in 1996 and has nearly doubled during the 1990s, writes *Diane Coyle*.

Banking and insurance were the biggest net earners. But pension funds' earnings have been growing most rapidly, according to the annual "City" earnings table published by British Invisibles. The balance of payments

surplus generated by financial services helps offset deficits in other areas.

Recent official figures showed there was an overall deficit of £435m last year, with trade in goods in the red by £12.6bn. In 1995, the latest year for which all the figures are available, financial services was the only

category, apart from oil, to record a significant balance of payments surplus, although some others, such as the music business and shipping, recorded smaller surpluses.

Duncan McKenzie, economic adviser for British Invisibles, said: "Further growth in its overseas earnings reflects the consolidation

and strengthening of London's leading position in many financial markets."

He said the strong pound would not necessarily dent the sector's overseas earnings this year. Although exports of financial services were vulnerable to the high exchange rate, it would increase the other component of

the City's earnings, investment income, in sterling terms.

Both income from services and income from investments increased last year. Services earnings rose £162m to £12.8bn, and investment income by £1.8bn to £9.8bn. Banks' total net earnings made up ground lost in 1995 partly as a result of the collapse of Barings.

They climbed from £5.9bn to £7.1bn in 1996.

The insurance sector's earnings fell slightly last year, from £6.9bn to £6.1bn. This partly reflected the fact that Lloyd's had a more successful year and therefore distributed significant profits to overseas members for the first time in five years.

Net overseas earnings of pension funds jumped by a fifth to £2.3bn, continuing their strong upward path. There were mixed results for other institutional investors, with gains for fund managers but declines for unit and investment trusts.

Securities dealers, whose performance is relatively volatile, had a good year in 1996, with a £432m rise to £2.2bn. The earnings of other traders, including commodity traders and bullion dealers, reached a record £642m.

Financial services earn £23bn overseas

Beckett set to rule out utility profit-sharing

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

The Government looks poised to jettison a key policy proposal intended to reform the privatised utilities, by ruling out a system of profit-sharing to cream off excess company profits.

The wide-ranging review of utility regulation, launched last week by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is almost certain to conclude that an annual profit-sharing mechanism, though attractive in theory, would be too complicated and bureaucratic to operate in practice.

Instead, the review is likely to focus on radical plans to give consumers a much greater say in decisions by regulators, along with guarantees that poorer customers would not lose out after the introduction of domestic electricity and gas competition.

The decision to sideline profit-sharing has pointed to tensions within the DTI over the interdepartmental review, which ministers fear could be watered down by civil servants, many of whom created the existing regime under the Conservatives.

Labour's final proposals for utility reform before the elec-

tion envisaged retaining the price mechanism used in most privatisations, which limits customer bills using a formula based on inflation. To supplement this Labour proposed a system of profit-sharing, where utility companies would be set a ceiling for earnings each year. Any excess profits would have to be shared with customers through lower bills or rebates.

The intention of the system was to combine the regulatory certainty and incentives of the inflation-based regime with guaranteed benefits for consumers. Its architects were concerned that price caps typically lasting four or five years lacked the flexibility to cream off unexpected efficiency gains. An earlier proposal for a US-style price-setting mechanism based on rates of return was ruled out long before the poll.

Less than two weeks into the review the DTI has identified several barriers to the policy, including the difficulty of designing a complex mechanism to calculate profit ceilings for each of the companies. Another concern was that competition emerging in the water and electricity sectors would eliminate the need for detailed price regulation.

One suggestion could be to

apply profit-sharing to a smaller group of monopoly utilities which will never be subject to competition, including BG, responsible for the gas pipeline network, and National Grid. However, these companies have recently been forced to make large one-off price cuts by regulators, reducing their capacity to make excess earnings in the first place. Similar one-off reductions are due in the water industry in 2000.

Mrs Beckett appeared to recognise some of these difficulties when she launched the review. She said: "I am anxious, however, that we consider fully the practicalities of such a proposal." The Government did not want to control companies "by the back door".

Moves to reject profit-sharing would be strongly supported by utility companies, which argued they would reduce their incentive to make bigger efficiency improvements. Industry regulators had also questioned the change.

They are likely to be less happy with the latest thinking on consumer representation. The review is considering moving beyond the existing system of customer committees to widen the public consultation during price reviews.



Keith Edelman: Shareholder wanted to know why he 'seemed to walk on water'

Storehouse chief's pay package questioned

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Storehouse, the retail group which has been plagued by weak sales and a plunging share price, came under fire from shareholders over boardroom pay yesterday. However, the share price surged 9 per cent later in the day following an upbeat trading statement that was made at the meeting.

Alan Smith, chairman of Storehouse, was forced to defend the chief executive, Keith Edelman, after one shareholder questioned his £728,000 pay package in a year during which the shares had fallen by a third and underperformed the retail sector by 30 per cent. "Why does Mr Edelman seem to walk on water?" one shareholder asked.

Mr Edelman had received higher bonuses than Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman of Marks & Spencer, "who has guided that company to a £1bn profit".

Mr Smith responded by say-

ing the company's performance measures were "tough indeed" and that, far from being criticised, Mr Edelman "should be congratulated for the work he has done bringing this company back from the brink of disaster".

He said Mr Edelman's total pay had gone down this year "and will go down next year too". There was better news for shareholders when Mr Smith unveiled the company's trading statement which showed that group sales in the first quarter were 14.5 per cent ahead of the same period last year. Of that total, the additional seven weeks of the Children's World acquisition had added 5.3 percentage points.

The combined Mothercare and Children's World sales were 10.8 per cent ahead while those at BHS were 3.5 per cent up.

Storehouse shares jumped 17p to 205p on the news, having touched a low of 185.5p earlier this month. However, analysts said the company would need to deliver good results more consistently if it was to win over its critics.

John Richards, of NatWest Securities, said: "There is still a lack of credibility with this company and I don't think there is enough in these figures to make a difference. The share price reaction is one of relief really. It's a start but there is still some way to go."

He pointed out that because Storehouse had started its summer sale early some of the sales growth would have been made at a lower margin.

There were lighter moments at the shareholders' meeting in central London yesterday. One shareholder, Henry Grimsdale, asked why his local branch of BHS was still stocking Christmas puddings at Easter. "They were the size of thimbles," he said.

Another said his family had held shares in Storehouse since 1928 "and I wonder if there is anyone in the room who has held shares longer?" Mr Smith said he would check and quipped: "At least those should have gone up since then."

IN BRIEF

• Shares in Skillsgroup plunged 35 per cent to 126.5p after the computer company, which recently changed its name from P&P, warned that difficult second-half trading in Europe would affect full-year results. Analysts said the shares had been harshly punished because although management would have been aware of the problem at its annual general meeting in April, it was not mentioned. Ross Jobber at housebroker UBS has cut his full-year forecast 19 per cent to £14.3m. While the group's newer IT training and systems businesses traded well in the half year to May, the problem rested in the group's traditional and declining computer box stuffing business. "The old dog barked today," said Mr Jobber.

• Scapa, the paper rollers to industrial tapes business, is to buy Sellotape Industrial Tapes, part of Sellotape International, for £41m cash. The move comes just weeks after David Dunn, chief executive, said he wanted Scapa to become a "worthy number two to 3M" in the fast-growing industrial tapes market. The group said the acquisition, which does not include domestic sticky tape, would build its market in supplying the printing, graphics and construction markets. Sellotape Industrial reported sales of £70m in 1996 and pre-tax profit of £5.2m. Scapa's shares closed up 2.5p to 209p.

• British Telecom was in breach of its operating licence in the way it runs its OneNumber personal numbering service, the regulator Ofcom said. BT had also failed to provide the network services for other operators to run voicemail services. The regulator said if BT wanted to continue to run OneNumber, it had until 31 October to make available the network services for competitors.

• The Investors Compensation Scheme will be contacting customers of seven failed investment firms now in default, inviting them to lodge formal applications for compensation. The firms are Colne Financial Planning Services of Colchester, Essex; Copeland Financial Services of Alderminster, Berkshire; Durwen Group Limited of Chester, Cheshire; LMD International Investment Management Services of Barmham, Kent; Raksh Kumar Sharma trading as RK Shop & Business Sales of Central Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire; Summit Insurance & Financial Consultants of Macclesfield, Cheshire; and P Webber & B Fisher trading as Roy Alexander & Company of Dawlish, Devon.

• Phonelink, the telephone information and marketing company, saw its share price tumble by 15.5p to 51p with investors disappointed with its results for the year to the end of March. Turnover was virtually unchanged on the previous year's £4.3m. Only a rise in net interest receivable enabled the company to reduce its loss from £6.7m to £6.2m. John Ramsey, the new chief executive who joined in January, has reduced the cash drain from £400,000 a month to £160,000, axing four directors and a third of the staff in the process. The shares were floated at 155p four years ago.

• BAA's UK airports handled 9.6 million passengers in June, an increase of 8.3 per cent year-on-year. Heathrow recorded an increase of 5 per cent, Gatwick 13 per cent and Southampton 15 per cent, followed by Stansted and Glasgow, which were both up 12 per cent. The European charter market increased 11 per cent, reflecting the recovery in the Mediterranean package holiday, and North Atlantic services increased 10 per cent.

• Mirror Group's £297m agreed bid for Midland Independent Newspapers has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Nigel Griffiths, Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister said. The MMC will report its findings by 24 September.

Company Results

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Anglo Group (P)	8,250 (8,000)	0.1m (0.24m)	5.10p (3.01p)	0.23p (0.27p)
Barrat TV (P)	13.3m (12.6m)	2.74m (2.3m)	16.8p (14.7p)	7p (5.8p)
Barrowland Brewery (P)	44.7m (48.1m)	3.67m (4.34m)	11.3p (12p)	8p (5.55p)
Brown Holdings (P)	54.5m (47.1m)	0.6m (0.5m)	9.43p (9.12p)	1.73p (1.8p)
Fletcher King (P)	4.8m (4.7m)	0.27m (0.25m)	2.4p (2.3p)	1.75p (1.58p)
Grange (P)	130m (105m)	25.5m (21.3m)	31.3p (26.4p)	10p (8.5p)
Hallam Holdings (P)	- (-)	16.67m (16.90m)	112.33p (10.24p)	12.50p (-)
Hillier & Hillier (P)	- (-)	12.0m (9.2m)	31.8p (29.8p)	8p (7.3p)
Holbert & Lane (P)	77.9m (73.7m)	1.65m (0.91m)	1.22p (0.88p)	0.125p (0.1p)
Industrious (P)	74.8m (73.2m)	13.7m (12.8m)	8.16p (8.61p)	8p (6.5p)
First Holdings (P)	4.32m (4.38m)	-5.17m (4.71m)	-12.5p (17.3p)	nil (-)
Millar (P)	10.5m (9.5m)	1.13m (0.98m)	-4.83p (4.46p)	2.55p (2.28p)
Shannon (P)	10.9m (17.9m)	6.5m (6.5m)	5.8p (5.5p)	1.2p (1.25p)
Whitbread (P)	- (-)	3.43m (3.12m)	22.32p (19.88p)	13.75p (12.55p)

(P) - Profit (L) - Loss (M) - Margin (F) - Finance

Gartmore hires US custodian

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Gartmore said yesterday it had contracted the Bank of New York to provide global custody services for £25bn of its assets under management. The deal transfers to the American bank responsibility for maintaining the security of the fund management group's assets and cash, collecting dividend income and ensuring cash is available for purchases.

The outsourcing arrangement follows the takeover of Gartmore by NatWest and its integration with NatWest Investment Management. Prior to

the merger, the two fund managers managed their own custodial arrangements with different systems and custodians.

Andrew Brown, joint chief executive of Gartmore, said: "In the fund management industry, as in other fields, specialisation has become the key to providing clients with the highest quality service. This outsourcing arrangement will allow Gartmore to focus on our core investment management strengths, while ensuring that our clients receive sufficient value-added custody services."

The Bank of New York acts as sub-custodian for Gartmore in all overseas markets except

the US. The move, thought to be the biggest outsourcing in Britain to a single custodian, affects about half of Gartmore's £50bn assets and around 300 of the firm's clients.

There has been a trend towards the outsourcing of custody services as fund managers have moved towards investing in a wide range of markets around the world. The skills and technology required to look after those diversified assets has become increasingly expensive, providing opportunities for global custodians such as the Bank of New York, which is estimated to be responsible for assets worth £1,800bn.

The guru's answer to anarchy in the office

David Maister believes he knows how to inspire an 'extra level of dedication' in professional firms. Roger Trapp reports

With few exceptions, professional firms like to shun the limelight. Since most of them remain private partnerships, they revel in the fact that they are not obliged to disclose the sort of financial data that their clients have long since grown used to publishing. But now and again, despite their best efforts, they find themselves making the news for the wrong reasons - as has happened in recent weeks with the failure of the normally ruthlessly efficient Arthur Andersen accounting and consulting organisation to elect a chief executive and, more seriously, with the scrutiny of various firms' roles in the abortive bid for the Co-op.

Understandably enough, David Maister will not be drawn on individual cases, but Andersen's demonstration of the problems of choosing a leader when 2,700 people have a say adds credence to the guru of professional service firm management's belief that such organisations tend to be anarchies rather than the democracies they pretend to be. Equally, the apparent scramble to advise the Andersen team seeking to break up the Co-op can be seen as an example of a practice Mr Maister feels happens all

too often - "departing from strategy for short-term expediency". Professionals should remember the reputed slogan of the mighty investment bank Goldman Sachs, he says. "Be long-term greedy, don't be short-term greedy."

A Brit long settled in the United States, Mr Maister is a former professor at Harvard Business School who has been advising lawyers, accountants and other professionals around the world full-time for the past 12 years. It started, he says, with a theory that professional firms needed a different approach to management from other forms of business. When "it turned out to be factually true", he found himself with a career.

Though his columns in *Legal Business* and its US equivalent, *The American Lawyer*, attract a devoted readership, Mr Maister - whose second book, *The Professionalism* (Simon & Schuster, £16.99), is just out - differs from many gurus in insisting that "there is nothing new" to what he is

saying. Most of what he proposes firms know to be right; his role is to try to "give them the courage of their principles" - not mine.

One of his approaches is to seek to convince professionals that they should be having fun. Using the fact that only about a third of those he questions would stick to their chosen career if they could earn the same amount doing something else, he sets out what they would be far more successful, and happier, if they concentrated on what they enjoyed and abandoned what did not fulfil them.

He claims to get about 95 per cent "intellectual agreement" with the notion, but admits that only about 15 per cent have the energy or enthusiasm to go out and try to change things. Most of the rest are too busy doing more of the same to speak out.

He likens this to his own inability to go on a diet: he knows it will be good for him, but he cannot quite bring him-

self to give up certain foods and so become healthier.

Much of the lack of enjoyment comes from working long hours - because firms have convinced themselves that profitability comes from achieving colossal amounts of billable work rather than impressing their clients - and from working with people who do not seem to be motivated by the same things as themselves.

This is where Mr Maister's view that firms are likely to be anarchies rather than democracies comes in. Though his first book was called *Managing The Professional Service Firm*, he believes that such organisations tend to be administered rather than managed. Increasingly, there are rules and regulations and targets to be met, but there is little in the way of inspirational management.

Consequently, when decisions are taken through votes they are not always regarded as law as they would be in a true democracy; instead, those who

did not vote for a particular initiative feel that they have no responsibility to abide by it.

The answer to this, suggests Mr Maister, is to create a system of values that people can buy into - and, most importantly and difficultly, to achieve - ensure that they are acting upon rather than just espoused.

As he says: "Strict financial controls may get people into compliance, but they will never inspire the extra level of intensity and dedication that creates excellence."

And, when he accepts there is "a grave risk" of all this sounding like inspirational morality, he clearly believes that the key to a successful professional service firm lies in principles. After all, professionals are always pointing out how they abide by ethics and have codes of honour.

However, he admits to being saddened that inside many professional firms the drive to be businesslike means that the idea that a principle can be a commercial point has been lost. It is not that professionals are less likely to be understandable - imperfectly matching up to their principles, but that they do not pretend to have values.

market report / shares

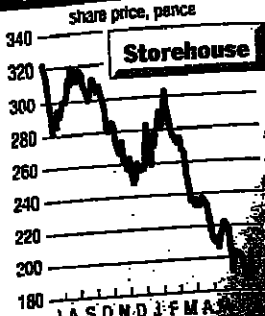
Spend, spend, spend as punters bet on consumer spree

Taking Stock

Data Bank

FTSE 100
4767.8 + 5.4
FTSE 250
4386.2 - 9.3
FTSE 350
2287.2 + 1.2
SEAQ VOLUME
853.2m shares
50,309 bargains
Gilt Index
96.77 -0.1

Share spotlight



As large City institutions continued to squeeze the Woolwich windfall the stock market happily lifted shares of retailers and others set to benefit from the conversion spending spree.

Dixons, the electrical chain that alerted the market to the windfall pickings with its optimistic trading statement on Wednesday, put on a further 17p to 553.5p, a two-day gain of 61p.

Mark & Spencer was also in form, adding 21p to 555.5p and even long-suffering Storehouse, helped by a positive trading, jumped 17p to 205p.

With the Bank of England interest rate increase restrained to 0.25 of a percentage point, blue chips adopted a "candy floss" mentality with Footsie swinging from a near-30 points fall to close up 5.4 points at 4,767.8.

There had been fears in the run up to the BoE announcement that rates would be lifted



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

Meanwhile Woolwich, up 9p to 304p, said its latest auction had produced an average of only 285p against the 375.5p peak touched on Monday. Sharelink, the big execution-only stockbroker, said Woolwich was its clients' most popular buy, attracting more attention in its first three days than any other share over the week ended yesterday.

Superstores were again in demand. The positive trading statement from J Sainsbury kept the sector on a high. Sainsbury rose 21p to 420.5p with Safeway up 12.5p to 399.5p, Tesco 11.5p to 431p and Asda 2.75p to 142p.

TI, the engineer, added

placed at 150p, ended at 182.5p.

Tate & Lyle had to endure the bitter taste of negative sentiment as Credit Lyonnais Laing and Warburg cut their profit expectations. LucasVarley had to contend with a 180p target price from Société Générale Strauss Turnbull; the shares fell 3.5p to 198p.

British Steel edged ahead 3p to 144.5p after Morgan Stanley was said to be positive, suggesting the year's dividend will be held at 10p even if, as expected, profits fall further.

Rolls-Royce fell 3p to 218p although its foreign share holders have fallen below the 29.5 per cent ceiling without forced sales being necessary.

The tendency to disclaim knowledge of why a share has fallen has attracted Network Technology. The shares, only down from around 200p, fell a further 5.5p to 183.5p despite

the company saying it knew of no reason for the fall. Chemical group Metrotec, which proffered a similar message on Wednesday, rose 1.5p to 31p, reflecting director buying.

Roskel, the building materials group, underlined the neglected value of many second and third-liners. A 145p offer from SIG, the insulation group, lifted the price 63.5p to 134.5p. Food group Albert Fisher, where a bidder lurks, fell 0.5p to 43.75p as PFDMA acquired 250,000 shares at 44p, taking its stake to 12.07 per cent.

Finelast, the car parts distributor, held at 323.5p, down from a 394.5p peak. Stockbroker Redmayne Bentley rates the shares, suggesting profits will jump nearly £10m this year to £18.2m and to around £28m next.

On Offer, Display IT had another wounding session, falling 70p to 220p.

PSD, which came to market in February, edged forward 2p to 275.5p as Charterhouse Tilney said buy. The company, which was floated at 220p, is a specialist recruitment consultancy. Analyst Robert Morton says that he expects profits this year to climb £1.7m to £7.5m with £9m likely next year.

Rodime, for years little more than a US litigation play, fell 0.5p to 1.75p as the market decided its five-year pursuit of Seagate Technology, a US computer group, had suffered a severe setback. A US ruling appeared to make it difficult for Rodime to press ahead with its claims.

Kynoch, a filtration and sterilisation equipment group, held at 23p. There is talk the company, which has staged a strong trading comeback, could attract a bid.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 10 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, including exceptional items.

Source: FT Information

Up Partly Paid per 100 Shares

FTSE 100 - Real-time

UK Stock Market Report

UK Company News

Foreign Exchange

Anyone with a time-of-day telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its pricing, visit our website at www.independent.co.uk. For assistance, call our helpline 07 527 5275 (9.00am - 5.00pm). Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
BT	24,000	British Steel	10,000	Centrica	10,000	Shell	10,000
Barclays	10,000	Woolwich	10,000	Glaxo	10,000	Unilever	10,000
HSBC	10,000	ASDA Group	10,000	Harley Davidson	10,000	British Airways	10,000
Sainsbury	10,000	Shell Transport	10,000	British Union	10,000	British Telecom	10,000
BT	10,000	BTM	10,000	BTM	10,000	BTM	10,000

FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Time	Index	Time	Index	Time	Index	Time	Index
Open 0900	4767.8	1100	4767.8	1300	4767.8	1500	4767.8
0930	4767.8	1030	4767.8	1130	4767.8	1230	4767.8
1000	4767.8	1100	4767.8	1200	4767.8	1300	4767.8
1100	4767.8	1200	4767.8	1300	4767.8	1400	4767.8
1200	4767.8	1300	4767.8	1400	4767.8	1500	4767.8

Telecommunications

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
BT	183.5	-5.5	British Telecom	183.5	-5.5
BTM	10.0	0.0	BTM	10.0	0.0
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Where would you like to go this weekend?

Costa Rica
or
Biking in France...?

Wherever you want to go in the UK or Overseas. See it in Travel 'Travel & Money' every Sunday

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Hyder waters down tax burden

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Some things in life are just not fair, as Graham Hyder, chief executive of Hyder, found to his cost in last week's Budget. His watered-down reaction for public consumption, that the tax was "particularly harsh", was echoed by most City analysts. The £282m bill, made up of £192m for Welsh Water and £90m for Swalec, amounted to 24 per cent of Hyder's market value. Compare this with Anglo, which will pay a levy worth 11 per cent, or British Telecom, which "escaped" with a tax of only 1.7 per cent.

Hyder's decision to launch a "fundamental review" of its finances unsettled the share price just when shareholders in every other privatised utility saw the value of their investments surge. Yesterday Hyder's shares ended 21.5p higher at 827.5p as investors breathed a well-earned sigh of relief at the company's announcement that it was "confident" it could continue to deliver "satisfactory" dividend growth. Despite the scale of the burden, Hyder plans to change precisely nothing.

The group has no plans to cut spending. The tax, payable through increased borrowings in two tranches by December 1998, will raise Hyder's annual interest bill by £20m. One possibility was to reduce the discretionary investment programme on environmental improvements, worth £20m plus annually. But this is too difficult, politically and practically, to contemplate. The same could be said for the second option, to cancel the £1m of annual cuts in bills to customers agreed with Ofwat under its voluntary "abatement" programme.

The reason for Mr Hawker's confidence says much about the continued strong prospects for profits and dividend growth across the water sector. Though Hyder's gearing will rise from 100 to 200 per cent, it should still manage a dividend increase for the current financial year of 11 per cent in money terms, compared with the 14 per cent forecast by analysts before the windfall tax. With a prospective yield of 7.5 per cent, it suggests plenty of prospects for capital growth. As the table shows, some of the healthiest companies will manage dividend increases of up to 14 per cent. The real crunch will come, not with the windfall tax, but in 2000 when the regulator is expected to make substantial price cuts to bring down dividend growth.

The current price formula, which allows real term increases in bills to fund investment spending, leaves plenty of room for water companies to

raise gearing to pay the windfall levy. And given generally high dividend cover in the sector, investors will continue to enjoy a steady dividend growth. Hyder certainly looks undervalued, at least until 2000. Investors should buy.

Helical Bar still a property star

Some of the property industry's supposed star performers such as Burford and Argent, have fallen to earth in recent months. However, Helical Bar, one of the unsung heroes of the sector, keeps on producing the goods.

Under the guidance of charismatic chief executive Michael Slade, Helical has built up a £550m development programme that is the envy of the industry. This seems a big step for a company capitalised at less than £100m. But Helical has mitigated the risks by taking on a large number of smaller

schemes and pre-selling most of the sites to institutions keen to invest in direct property. And it has shown over the past 10 years that it can consistently spot a good deal.

Its investment portfolio is also well placed to cash in on the property upturn. It has been quick to take advantage of the strong London market by selling industrial property and piling into City offices. This fleetness of foot should stand it in good stead.

On the downside, the 1 per cent increase in stamp duty for larger property transactions announced in last week's Budget and rising interest rates are bad news for the industry. But this won't be enough to strangle the market recovery. The removal of tax credits on dividends will also make property a relatively more attractive investment for pension funds and life assurance companies than equities.

Given that Helical has a large chunk of convertible preference shares its net assets should be valued on a fully diluted basis. Net assets for the year to March rose to 372p (330p). Credit

Lyonnais Laing forecasts net asset value of 445p this year, putting the shares on a prospective premium to net assets of 15 per cent. But that ignores the value of the development portfolio not reflected in the balance sheet. Even on conservative estimates the profits from this investment will add at least 100p to net assets per share. Helical's shares, up 16p to 513.5p yesterday, still offer sound value.

Stoves disappoints with warning

When Stoves, the designer cooker makers, floated at 163p two years ago the excitement which rapidly took the company to a 330p high is easy to understand. Stoves' niche position selling customised cookers in a staggering 50 million variations of colour, finish and style and its quality after-sales back-up looks like a winner.

Stoves can ask premium prices while made-to-order, flexible production means low stock levels and tight costs. However, the timing was a bit off. The slow consumer recovery, combined with a hot summer last year, took their toll and the shares slumped. However, with windfall cash around and housing moves on the rise, Stoves should be doing better. So yesterday's trading warning was a disappointment. While election nerves left the UK cooker market down 10 per cent in the three months to end May, Stoves' sales fell just 3 per cent. Strong growth in the first three months means the group should still turn in a healthy 27 per cent rise in full-year sales to £80m with profits up a fifth when the figures are published on 19 August.

Meanwhile, a newly appointed MD for the UK business frees up John Crathorne, chief executive, to focus on strategy which includes a cautious step into the US, where upmarket European brands are in demand, expansion in Germany, a merger in France and a move into other hi-tech kitchen appliances.

Mike Costello at house brokers Kleinwort Benson has cut full-year forecasts to May by £400,000 to £5.5m, but has raised 1998 and 1999 numbers by £200,000 to £7.2m and £8.2m. The shares, down 7.5p to 270p yesterday, are trading on 20 times this year's earnings and 14 times for 1998. That looks right.

City suits rally round to support fox hunting

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Evelyn de Rothschild: in favour of hunt meetings

I wonder how many City people there were among the 100,000-odd crowd which turned out for yesterday's Countryside Rally in Hyde Park in support of hunting?

Quite a few, judging from the number of people with "I was in Hyde Park" stickers on their lapels at Bank Tube Station at around 3 o'clock.

However, press reports that Evelyn de Rothschild had sent staff at NM Rothschild a memo urging them to attend was greeted with resignation by the investment bank's press spokesman: "We can't confirm the numbers that went - we were all too busy working."

According to other sources, it is understood that Sir Evelyn was merely bringing the matter to the attention of staff, and it was up to them whether they attended the meeting.

There was a similar reaction from Savills, the estate agency chain that specialises in country houses. It has 10 offices in London, and its head office is in easy walking distance of Hyde Park.

A spokeswoman for Savills said that while "many hundreds" of staff had gone, there had been no directive commanding them to go. "It's a very difficult one, really. The company is made up of individuals, and we decided we didn't want a company presence. But we are very much involved with the land."

The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce - or the RSA to you - has appointed its first woman director, Penny Egan. It already has a woman chairman, the television cook Pru Leith.

If you didn't already know, the RSA is popular among business people, since it is heavily involved in promoting

better management in UK companies, and is seen as an excellent vehicle for meeting other like-minded people, networking. It has a fellowship of 21,000.

Ms Egan is in the forefront of this drive, having been the RSA's Programme Development Director when it published the "Tomorrow's Company" report. This was the management study which brought the idea of stakeholding into the public gaze.

Ms Egan, the RSA's 243-year history, has the experience to give it an even higher profile, having worked as a press spokesperson in 10 Downing Street for Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan.

Congratulations to my old mate Roger Oldfield, a receiver with accountants KPMG, who won the trophy for "fastest chief operating officer" in an annual 3.5-mile race on Wednesday.

Overall he actually came third, in 22 minutes 40 seconds, in the 1997 Chase Corporate Challenge, behind Matt Barnes of Barclays

Bank and Zara Hyde of Esso UK. But Roger, 49, is in effect head of KPMG's UK corporate recovery practice, thus a "CEO", and considering his age an example to us all.

"I was really pleased," he said yesterday. "I came third last year - I just seem to have a natural ability for it."

Mr Oldfield is headhunting closer to selling property out of business companies. He managed to sell on the Broadgate office complex in the City when Mounbleigh went belly up. In 1990 he almost persuaded me to buy a flat in Bow Quarter, a development in east London. Yesterday he was relaxing at the Loch Lomond International Golf Classic as a guest of a company which bought some land off him in 1987.

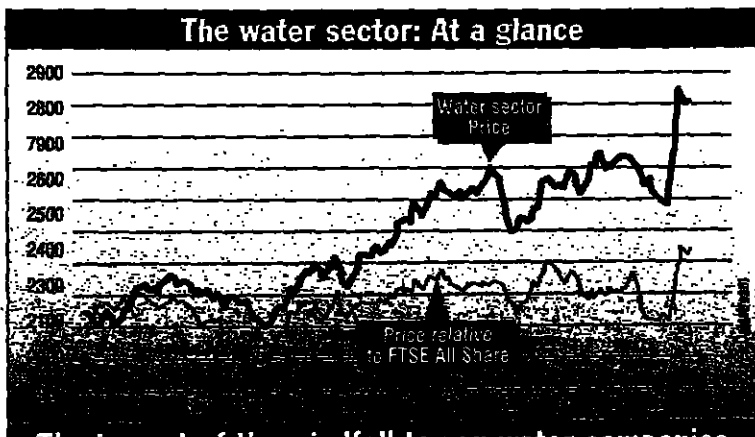
The client in question bought the Stockton heavy engineering works on which Margaret Thatcher walked for that famous photograph of industrial desolation in the 1980s. It now houses a thriving business park.

But Mr Oldfield may be finally slowing up. His fellow partner Tony Thompson tells me he's just taken up golf.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) isn't the only institution suffering a "Peasants' Revolt". The election for a new independent financial adviser (IFA) representative on the PIA board has brought forth Roddy Kohn, an independent independent, so to speak, who won by a whisker. He beat the man nominated by the PIA board, Michael Bryant, who has just retired after 25 years with Rathbone Group.

Perhaps Mr Bryant should have paid more attention to a motto: "A PIA recommendation is the kiss of death."

John Willcock



The impact of the windfall tax on water companies

Company	Windfall levy (£m)	Forecast net profit 1997/1998 (£m)	Forecast dividend growth (%)
Anglian	132	232	13
Hyder	282	158	10.7
Northumbria	79	94	9.6
Sewerage	315	319	12.3
South West	188	117	11.7

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.6877	1.71	1.74	1000	1.6877	1.71	1.74
Canada	2.3183	2.31	2.31	1000	2.3183	2.31	2.31
France	6.5504	6.55	6.55	1000	6.5504	6.55	6.55
Germany	1.6367	1.63	1.63	1000	1.6367	1.63	1.63
Italy	1.3633	1.36	1.36	1000	1.3633	1.36	1.36
Japan	160.78	160.78	160.78	1000	160.78	160.78	160.78
Netherlands	1.3633	1.36	1.36	1000	1.3633	1.36	1.36
Sweden	8.4663	8.46	8.46	1000	8.4663	8.46	8.46
Switzerland	1.4835	1.48	1.48	1000	1.4835	1.48	1.48
UK	1.5333	1.53	1.53	1000	1.5333	1.53	1.53
Other	1.5333	1.53	1.53	1000	1.5333	1.53	1.53

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	19800	0.0000	Nigeria	14000	0.0000
Australia	207000	0.0000	Pakistan	0.0000	0.0000
Brazil	15200	0.0000	Philippines	44.000	0.0000
Canada	0.6500	1.5333	Poland	200.000	0.0000
China	8.2700	0.0000	Romania	16.667	0.0000
Denmark	6.4600	0.0000	Saudi Arabia	0.0000	0.0000
France	6.5500	0.0000	South Africa	0.0000	0.0000
Germany	1.6367	0.0000	Taiwan	0.0000	0.0000
India	0.0000	0.0000	Thailand	0.0000	0.0000
Italy	0.0000	0.0000	UK	0.0000	0.0000

Forward rates quoted low to high are at a discount; subtract from spot rate.
Rates quoted low to high are at a premium; add to spot rate.
For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0800 123 3000.
Cells cost 50p per minute.

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	6.75%	US	5.50%
France	6.00%	Germany	5.00%
Italy	6.00%	Japan	5.50%
Canada	6.00%	Sweden	5.50%
Spain	6.00%	Switzerland	5.00%
Netherlands	6.00%	Australia	5.50%
Belgium	6.00%	New Zealand	5.50%
Portugal	6.00%	South Korea	5.50%
Greece	6.00%	India	5.50%
Ireland	6.00%	China	5.50%
Denmark	6.00%	Other	5.50%

Bond Yields

Country	Yr	Yield	Country	Yr	Yield
UK	7.0%	7.17%	US	7.0%	5.51%
France	6.5%	6.25%	Germany	5.0%	5.00%
Italy	6.0%	6.00%	Japan	5.5%	5.50%
Canada	6.0%	6.00%	Sweden	5.5%	5.50%
Spain	6.0%	6.00%	Switzerland	5.0%	5.00%
Netherlands	6.0%	6.00%	Australia	5.5%	5.50%
Belgium	6.0%	6.00%	New Zealand	5.5%	5.50%
Portugal	6.0%	6.00%	South Korea	5.5%	5.50%
Greece	6.0%	6.00%	India	5.5%	5.50%
Ireland	6.0%	6.00%	China	5.5%	5.50%
Denmark	6.0%	6.00%	Other	5.5%	5.50%

Money Market Rates

Instrument	Rate	Instrument	Rate
Bank of England	6.00%	US Fed	5.50%
London Interbank	6.00%	Germany	5.00%
3 Month	6.00%	Italy	6.00%
6 Month	6.00%	Canada	6.00%
1 Year	6.00%	Spain	6.00%
2 Year	6.00%	Netherlands	6.00%
3 Year	6.00%	Belgium	6.00%
4 Year	6.00%	Portugal	6.00%
5 Year	6.00%	Greece	6.00%
Other	6.00%	Ireland	6.00%

Tourist Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia	2.0000	France	6.5500
Canada	0.6500	Germany	1.6367
China	8.2700	Italy	6.5500
Denmark	6.4600	Japan	160.7800
France	6.5500	Netherlands	1.3633
Germany	1.6367	Sweden	8.4663
India	0.0000	Switzerland	1.4835
Italy	0.0000	Australia	2.0000
Japan	160.7800	Canada	0.6500
Netherlands	1.3633	China	8.2700
Sweden	8.4663	Denmark	6.4600
Switzerland	1.4835	France	6.5500
Australia	2.0000	Germany	1.6367
Canada	0.6500	Italy	6.5500
China	8.2700	Japan	160.7800
Denmark	6.4600	Netherlands	1.3633
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Italy	0.0000	Canada	0.6500
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Switzerland	1.4835	Sweden	8.4663
Australia	2.0000	Switzerland	1.4835
Canada	0.6500	Australia	2.0000
China	8.2700	Canada	0.6500
Denmark	6.4600	China	8.2700
France	6.5500	Denmark	6.4600
Germany	1.6367	France	6.5500
India	0.0000	Germany	1.6367
Italy	0.0000	India	0.0000
Japan	160.7800	Italy	0.0000
Netherlands	1.3633	Japan	160.7800
Sweden	8.4663	Netherlands	1.3633
Switzerland	1.4835	Sweden	8.4663
Australia	2.0000	Switzerland	1.4835
Canada	0.6500	Australia	2.0000
China	8.2700	Canada	0.6500
Denmark	6.4600	China	8.2700
France	6.5500	Denmark	6.4600
Germany	1.6367	France	6.5500
India	0.0000	Germany	1.6367
Italy	0.0000	India	0.0000
Japan	160.7800	Italy	0.0000
Netherlands	1.3633	Japan	160.7800
Sweden	8.4663	Netherlands	1.3633
Switzerland	1.4835	Sweden	8.4663
Australia	2.0000	Switzerland	1.4835
Canada	0.6500	Australia	2.0000
China	8.2700	Canada	0.6500
Denmark	6.4600	China	8.2700
France	6.5500	Denmark	6.4600
Germany	1.6367	France	6.5500
India	0.0000	Germany	1.6367
Italy	0.0000	India	0.0000
Japan	160.7800	Italy	0.0000
Netherlands	1.3633	Japan	160.7800
Sweden	8.4663	Netherlands	1.3633
Switzerland	1.4835	Sweden	8.4663
Australia	2.0000	Switzerland	1.4835
Canada	0.6500	Australia	2.0000
China	8.2700	Canada	0.6500
Denmark	6.4600	China	8.2700
France	6.5500	Denmark	6.4600
Germany	1.6367	France	6.5500
India	0.0000	Germany	1.6367
Italy	0.0000	India	0.0000
Japan	160.7800	Italy	0.0000
Netherlands	1.3633	Japan	160.7800
Sweden	8.4663	Netherlands	1.3633
Switzerland	1.4835	Sweden	8.4663
Australia	2.0000	Switzerland	1.4835
Canada	0.6500	Australia	2.0000
China	8.2700	Canada	0.6500
Denmark	6.4600	China	8.2700
France	6.5500	Denmark	6.4600
Germany	1.6367	France	6.5500
India	0.0000	Germany	1.6367
Italy	0.0000		

sport

Jones finds fresh source of inspiration

Golf

ANDY FARRELL
reports from Loch Lomond

When Steve Jones enters the interview room, the usual questioning procedure is slightly altered. "Birdies, bogeys and your current reading matter, please, Steve," is the revised opening gambit.

Jones, who spent nearly three years recovering from a dirt-bike accident in 1991, was inspired to win the US Open a year ago by reading a biography of Ben Hogan. Currently, his

bedside table is occupied by a book published in 1959, but further he will not reveal. "I have to wait until I win something, then I reveal it," he said. Full disclosure may come tomorrow evening, but he would not be worried if it had to be delayed until a week on Sunday.

A round of 65, until Wednesday the course record, both confirmed the American as a contender for the Open at Troon next week, and gave him the lead in the Gulfstream World Invitational at eight under par. An afternoon thunderstorm caused a suspension in play with Tom Lehman

the leader on the course at 10 under after 11 holes, one ahead of Joakim Haeggman, with Paul Curry level with Jones. A scheduled resumption at 6pm came and went as more lightning threatened the area.

In contrast to the previous day's glorious sunshine, yesterday dawned grey and cool, with more of a breeze than for the first round. Jones kept his jacket on for the front nine to keep warm but by posting his score early in the morning, he avoided the frustrations of being interrupted later on. That

would have been a shame, as he was on a roll from the moment he rolled in an eight-foot putt for an eagle at the third.

Five more birdies, and just one dropped shot, followed. "I feel I am getting back to being close to the form when I won the US Open," he said. The 38-year-old followed that success by winning the Phoenix Open in January by 11 strokes. "When I am swinging well and my putting is going, I can win any tournament, anywhere," the 38-year-old added. "I am a streaky player."

In April and May, however, Jones missed four cuts in a row.

"I felt I could not break 100," he said. Not that he contemplated retirement or anything so extreme. "What would I do if I retired? I'd go fishing and play golf. That's what I do at the moment already, but I wouldn't get paid."

Greg Norman added a second 68 to move to six under, but Nick Faldo regressed with a 73. "It did not feel right for most of the round from the opening tee shot," said the Englishman after he came home in three over. It hardly seems the best time to go back to the drawing board, but Faldo left seeking the

answer to what was wrong. "I need a lot of practice, I guess. I need a good session on everything, swing, putting, in the bunkers, to get things back in shape."

The record holders from the first round found life trickier as well, Haeggman having advanced by one and Curry needing four birdies to recover from two bogeys and a double. Paul Adcock was caught out when play was suspended at 3.15pm. At four over playing the last, the Welshman was unlikely to make the cut, but by playing a shot after the siren had sounded,

which is not permitted in a dangerous weather situation, he was disqualified.

GULFSTREAM WORLD INVOLUTIONAL Early leading second-round scores (68 or better) in brackets: 134-5 Jones (US) 68-65; 138-3 Norman (Aus) 68-68; 138-3 Faldo (Eng) 68-70; 137-4 Curry (US) 68-69; 136-5 Adcock (Wales) 67-69; 135-6 Seaton (Wales) 67-68; 134-7 Seaton (Wales) 67-67; 133-8 Seaton (Wales) 67-66; 132-9 Seaton (Wales) 67-65; 131-10 Seaton (Wales) 67-64; 130-11 Seaton (Wales) 67-63; 129-12 Seaton (Wales) 67-62; 128-13 Seaton (Wales) 67-61; 127-14 Seaton (Wales) 67-60; 126-15 Seaton (Wales) 67-59; 125-16 Seaton (Wales) 67-58; 124-17 Seaton (Wales) 67-57; 123-18 Seaton (Wales) 67-56; 122-19 Seaton (Wales) 67-55; 121-20 Seaton (Wales) 67-54; 120-21 Seaton (Wales) 67-53; 119-22 Seaton (Wales) 67-52; 118-23 Seaton (Wales) 67-51; 117-24 Seaton (Wales) 67-50; 116-25 Seaton (Wales) 67-49; 115-26 Seaton (Wales) 67-48; 114-27 Seaton (Wales) 67-47; 113-28 Seaton (Wales) 67-46; 112-29 Seaton (Wales) 67-45; 111-30 Seaton (Wales) 67-44; 110-31 Seaton (Wales) 67-43; 109-32 Seaton (Wales) 67-42; 108-33 Seaton (Wales) 67-41; 107-34 Seaton (Wales) 67-40; 106-35 Seaton (Wales) 67-39; 105-36 Seaton (Wales) 67-38; 104-37 Seaton (Wales) 67-37; 103-38 Seaton (Wales) 67-36; 102-39 Seaton (Wales) 67-35; 101-40 Seaton (Wales) 67-34; 100-41 Seaton (Wales) 67-33; 99-42 Seaton (Wales) 67-32; 98-43 Seaton (Wales) 67-31; 97-44 Seaton (Wales) 67-30; 96-45 Seaton (Wales) 67-29; 95-46 Seaton (Wales) 67-28; 94-47 Seaton (Wales) 67-27; 93-48 Seaton (Wales) 67-26; 92-49 Seaton (Wales) 67-25; 91-50 Seaton (Wales) 67-24; 90-51 Seaton (Wales) 67-23; 89-52 Seaton (Wales) 67-22; 88-53 Seaton (Wales) 67-21; 87-54 Seaton (Wales) 67-20; 86-55 Seaton (Wales) 67-19; 85-56 Seaton (Wales) 67-18; 84-57 Seaton (Wales) 67-17; 83-58 Seaton (Wales) 67-16; 82-59 Seaton (Wales) 67-15; 81-60 Seaton (Wales) 67-14; 80-61 Seaton (Wales) 67-13; 79-62 Seaton (Wales) 67-12; 78-63 Seaton (Wales) 67-11; 77-64 Seaton (Wales) 67-10; 76-65 Seaton (Wales) 67-09; 75-66 Seaton (Wales) 67-08; 74-67 Seaton (Wales) 67-07; 73-68 Seaton (Wales) 67-06; 72-69 Seaton (Wales) 67-05; 71-70 Seaton (Wales) 67-04; 70-71 Seaton (Wales) 67-03; 69-72 Seaton (Wales) 67-02; 68-73 Seaton (Wales) 67-01; 67-74 Seaton (Wales) 67-00; 66-75 Seaton (Wales) 66-59; 65-76 Seaton (Wales) 66-58; 64-77 Seaton (Wales) 66-57; 63-78 Seaton (Wales) 66-56; 62-79 Seaton (Wales) 66-55; 61-80 Seaton (Wales) 66-54; 60-81 Seaton (Wales) 66-53; 59-82 Seaton (Wales) 66-52; 58-83 Seaton (Wales) 66-51; 57-84 Seaton (Wales) 66-50; 56-85 Seaton (Wales) 66-49; 55-86 Seaton (Wales) 66-48; 54-87 Seaton (Wales) 66-47; 53-88 Seaton (Wales) 66-46; 52-89 Seaton (Wales) 66-45; 51-90 Seaton (Wales) 66-44; 50-91 Seaton (Wales) 66-43; 49-92 Seaton (Wales) 66-42; 48-93 Seaton (Wales) 66-41; 47-94 Seaton (Wales) 66-40; 46-95 Seaton (Wales) 66-39; 45-96 Seaton (Wales) 66-38; 44-97 Seaton (Wales) 66-37; 43-98 Seaton (Wales) 66-36; 42-99 Seaton (Wales) 66-35; 41-100 Seaton (Wales) 66-34; 40-101 Seaton (Wales) 66-33; 39-102 Seaton (Wales) 66-32; 38-103 Seaton (Wales) 66-31; 37-104 Seaton (Wales) 66-30; 36-105 Seaton (Wales) 66-29; 35-106 Seaton (Wales) 66-28; 34-107 Seaton (Wales) 66-27; 33-108 Seaton (Wales) 66-26; 32-109 Seaton (Wales) 66-25; 31-110 Seaton (Wales) 66-24; 30-111 Seaton (Wales) 66-23; 29-112 Seaton (Wales) 66-22; 28-113 Seaton (Wales) 66-21; 27-114 Seaton (Wales) 66-20; 26-115 Seaton (Wales) 66-19; 25-116 Seaton (Wales) 66-18; 24-117 Seaton (Wales) 66-17; 23-118 Seaton (Wales) 66-16; 22-119 Seaton (Wales) 66-15; 21-120 Seaton (Wales) 66-14; 20-121 Seaton (Wales) 66-13; 19-122 Seaton (Wales) 66-12; 18-123 Seaton (Wales) 66-11; 17-124 Seaton (Wales) 66-10; 16-125 Seaton (Wales) 66-09; 15-126 Seaton (Wales) 66-08; 14-127 Seaton (Wales) 66-07; 13-128 Seaton (Wales) 66-06; 12-129 Seaton (Wales) 66-05; 11-130 Seaton (Wales) 66-04; 10-131 Seaton (Wales) 66-03; 9-132 Seaton (Wales) 66-02; 8-133 Seaton (Wales) 66-01; 7-134 Seaton (Wales) 66-00; 6-135 Seaton (Wales) 65-59; 5-136 Seaton (Wales) 65-58; 4-137 Seaton (Wales) 65-57; 3-138 Seaton (Wales) 65-56; 2-139 Seaton (Wales) 65-55; 1-140 Seaton (Wales) 65-54; 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sport

A personal point of view, one nobody is required to share, is that David Lloyd is in danger of disappearing up his intestinal tract

News came this week of a death in the boxing family, the demise in New York of an old reprobate, Al Braverman, who once called upon a stricken charge to explain why he was crawling on the canvas. "What are you, a fighter or a snake?" Braverman bellowed.

Braverman's luckless students included Chuck Wepner, a heavyweight known otherwise as the Bayonne Bleeder, who missed going the distance with Muhammad Ali by 19 seconds, done in by the exhaustion of his effort as much as by the great man's punches.

Ali, as was his custom with bums, had not even bothered to take Wepner lightly. He trained in the first 13 rounds and fought in the last two. Braverman took the fight, saying, "The whole world is

a mismatch," and Ali prepared accordingly.

The tricks of motivation Braverman employed that night included thrusting ice cubes down the front of Wepner's shorts, yanking at his pubic hair, slapping his battered face and obscene accusations of cowardice. Unimpressed by the suggestion that Wepner was in urgent need of facial surgery, Braverman growled, "Don't worry about the guy, he likes getting cut."

Hearing that an accident had caused the loss of my lower right arm Braverman called me in hospital, an embarrassing experience because, for pretty obvious reasons, I had no affinity with him. "I know how you feel," he said. "I got this diabetes and every three months they take a toe."

Many years ago I asked Braverman how he would deal with Joe Bugner who might have made a bigger mark in the heavyweight division but for pacifist tendencies. "I'd insult him," Braverman said. "Call him a fairy, a junkyard dog, a kyoote (whatever that is). I'd tell Bugner that he is a disgrace to humanity. It's the only way with those kind of fighters."

A similar approach was adopted by a British trainer, Freddie Hill, when recruited to work the corner with Bugner's manager of record, Andy Smith. "You big Hungarian poof," was the mildest epithet Hill employed in an attempt to induce more aggressive activity. Smith was appalled. "I won't have you speaking to Joseph like that," he said. "Leave the ring."



KEN JONES
COMMENTARY

You could say that Braverman was a motivator of sorts, so at the risk of appearing to use his demise as a convenience I move quickly to the fact that England's cricketers are due for an audience this weekend with the Lions

coaches, Ian McGeechan and Jim Telfer.

Presumably, McGeechan and Telfer have been called in by England's coach, David Lloyd, in an attempt to absorb the spirit that was central to the success of the Lions in South Africa. What worked for them can work for us is unquestionably the basis of his thinking.

A personal point of view, one nobody is required to share, is that Lloyd is in danger of disappearing up his intestinal tract. The buzz word in team sports today is "bonding". Coaches try every device imaginable, and some unimaginable, to stoke hotter and hotter fires in their players. They believe that the only way to get professionals to practise and play at a proper level of intensity is to bang a drum loudly and constantly.

But where is the pride in an athlete who needs that sort of stimulation? And the character? The only sure way to get a team player to perform at or near his peak is to surround him with good players and a good coach and a good organisation that will pay him for his trouble. The ability and attitude are there. formed, for the management to know what to do with, not to inhibit.

In any case, what has motivation got to do with the highly personal chore of facing up to short-pitched bowling or dealing with the wiles of Shane Warne? Cricket is a team game but much of the responsibility is individual. One thought is that great England cricketers from the past would have walked out on the sizzling

tapes Lloyd apparently insists on playing.

Alf Ramsey argued that selection for the national team should be enough motivation. When Bill Shankly was asked how he had felt in Scotland's dressing-room before turning out against England he said, "I could hear that wee lion on our shirts telling us to sort out these English bastards."

Shortly before Liverpool met Leicester in an FA Cup semi-final replay brought about by Peter Shilton's brilliant goalkeeping, Shankly appeared suddenly at the door of their dressing-room. "Imagine," he said, "that you are being battered by George Forman when the lights go out. You've got to do it all over again. That's how Leicester are feeling." It was all the motivation Liverpool needed.

Thomas reaches payback time

If Iwan Thomas was in any doubt about the impact of his recent 400 metres performance, the message was brought home to him in training this week.

Running at his local track in Southampton, the 23-year-old Welshman was approached by a club-mate who said he had bet £40 on him to win this summer's World Championships.

"This was a guy who worked in a factory, and he probably couldn't afford to bet so much money," Thomas said.

A bit worrying, perhaps? All adding to the pressure of expectation? That is not how this outgoing character views life.

"I would be so proud to win it for people like him," he said. "They have so much faith in me."

That faith has been generated by Thomas' impressive record since becoming a full-time athlete 18 months ago.

At the Olympics he won silver as one of the 400m relay team and finished fifth in the individual final. This season, in an event which has wrought havoc on the health of a succession of British athletes, he has gone from strength to strength.

After a second successive winter of training in South Africa, he defeated all his main domestic rivals last Sunday week in Sheffield, where he ran a personal best of 44.49sec.

Three days later, in a rain-swept Lausanne grand prix, he took 0.03 off that time in finishing second to the world record holder, Butch Reynolds.

The American will not be at the World Championships, because he failed to qualify in the US trials. The world and Olympic 400m champion, Michael Johnson, also failed to qualify because he missed the trials with injury, and his only

Mike Rowbottom on the runner out to repay faith with a world title

chance of being in Athens next month rests with the rumour that he, along with other defending champions, will be offered a wild card.

With Roger Black, Britain's Olympic silver medalist, hampered by a virus, Thomas's prospects are suddenly dizzying. He heads this season's 400m rankings.

Interviewed recently for Channel 4's Saturday magazine programme, Thomas was asked how he felt about becoming Britain's biggest star. "I just laughed," he said. "I don't think of myself as a star. It's scary when I get told that I am the fastest 400m runner this year. But I'm not going to let it bother me. I haven't said to anyone I'm going to win."

This evening in Birmingham, Thomas runs in the opening round of the British world championships trials, where he faces two of his fellow relay silver medalists from Atlanta - Jamie Baulch, his perennial Welsh rival, and Mark Richardson, who finished the place behind him in Sheffield and Lausanne.

"I want to win the trial, but I wouldn't be shocked if I was beaten by Mark," Thomas said. "He is an awesome talent. Going to Athens is what's important. When I get there, I'll give it some."

Thomas's coach, Mike Smith, has guided the careers of a series of outstanding 400m runners, including Donna Murray, Todd Bennett, Kriss Akabusi and Black.

He believes Thomas can break Black's British record of 44.37sec this season. "He might have had it in Sheffield if he hadn't put his arms up two metres from the line," Smith said.

"And I think he can get an individual medal at the World Championships. At this moment, Iwan is the fastest man over 400m, and, if all goes well, it's his."



Iwan Thomas with his Atlanta memento: "It's scary when I get told that I am the fastest 400m runner this year, but I'm not going to let it bother me. I haven't said to anyone I'm going to win"

break Black's British record of 44.37sec this season. "He might have had it in Sheffield if he hadn't put his arms up two metres from the line," Smith said.

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'Going to Athens is what's important. When I get there, I'll give it some'

he could almost be looking at gold. I say that with hesitancy because that is almost the kiss of death."

Smith, now 68, took early retirement from his teaching job in Southampton, but his commitment to coaching athletes locally has been unwavering.

Thomas started training with his group in 1994 when he was completing his degree in sports studies and leisure management at the West London In-

stitute. A year later he moved to Southampton to devote himself to training. He was financially supported by his mother Ann, a teacher, and father Cliff, a former Group Captain in the RAF, who now works as an aviation consultant.

"They bought me a flat and provided me with my food," he does it, but he's got me in perfect shape at the right time."

Before the race in Sheffield, Britain's coaching director, Malcolm Arnold, asked Thomas if he was going to win. "I looked him in the eyes and said: 'Yes. I was so up for it.'"

His eagerness had been heightened by the events of the spring, when Baulch earned all the headlines for indoor performances which culminated in a world indoor silver medal.

For Thomas, whose individual performance in Atlanta had been overshadowed by Black's, it was not an easy time. His height and powerful build are not suited to indoor running, but he had to be persuaded to concentrate on his outdoor preparation.

"I found it hard when Jamie got all the publicity," Thomas said. "I felt a bit left out in the cold, training on my own."

What has worked in his favour, Smith feels, is an uncomplicated approach to running. "Iwan is an easy-going character. He has this directness about him, which is a gift. You have to jolly him along and act

like his Dad at times. But he does everything anyone wants of him. He puts his back into the work."

"He can be a bit of an idiot sometimes. A bit of a scatterbrain. Before he went full-time he was very much the student. Sometimes he would get down to train, sometimes he wouldn't. You could have written a book of the excuses he used. His car had broken down, or someone had thumped him in a pub... But once he moved down, all that casual attitude died off."

Eleven years ago, Black won Commonwealth and European titles. Now Smith has another talent poised for greatness.

"Iwan hasn't got the 100 and 200m speed that Roger has, but he is much stronger," said Smith, who has already made plans to travel out to Athens - his first foreign trip in five years. "He's not - touching wood, and my head, - so prone to injury as Roger has been."

For Thomas, the going is indeed good right now. "I'm just really happy with life," he said. "Everything is going well. Long may it continue."

Injured Black left facing anxious wait

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Everybody who is anybody will be at the British world championships trials starting in Birmingham today. With a couple of major exceptions.

Linford Christie, who led Britain to the European Cup last month, has stuck to his decision not to contest another World Championships, choosing to race in Stuttgart this weekend. And Roger Black, named as Christie's successor to the captaincy, has been obliged to pull out following the virus infection which has undermined his recent form.

It is a wretched piece of timing for Britain's most successful athlete in Atlanta, but while he awaits full details of the blood test he underwent last week, he has been advised by a specialist against attempting to run three races in three days.

"I just ran out of time," Black said yesterday. "I can't subject myself to that programme if I'm not 100 per cent. I have to do what is right for my health."

With automatic qualifying places going to first and second-placed athletes in the Alexander Stadium, Black can only hope the optional third place remains open after Sunday's 400 metres final, which promises to be the high point of the meeting.

Should either of Britain's top two on current form, Iwan Thomas and Mark Richardson, fail to claim automatic places, Black's chance will almost certainly have disappeared. Jamie Baulch, Britain's world indoor silver medalist, could also claim a place with a good run, although he may have to run sub-45sec to convince the selectors.

"If all the others perform well, so be it," Black said. "It's out of my hands. But I'm not wallowing in self-pity. I'll hope for the right roll of the dice. They ran pretty well for me last year."

Britain's other individual silver medalists from Atlanta, Steve Backley and Jonathan Edwards, are both reported to be fit to compete after withdrawing from recent competitions. Backley, who pulled out of the Oslo meeting last Friday with swollen glands in his neck, is due to return against his training partner Mick Hill, who threw over 85 metres in Stockholm in midweek.

Edwards has recovered from the bruised heel which forced him to pull out half-way through the British Grand Prix in Sheffield, and he plans to go straight on to compete in Salamanca, where he first broke the world triple jump record in 1995.

Kelly Holmes, fresh from her impressive 800m victory over the world champion, Ana Quiroz of Cuba, will double up at 800m and 1500m this weekend, but she is still favouring the latter distance in Athens next month. Dine Modahl, the former Commonwealth 800m champion, has pulled out of the 800m because of a stress fracture.

Donna Fraser, who took more than half a second off her personal best for 400m in Oslo, will double up at 200 and 400 both in Birmingham and - if all goes to plan - Athens.

The British women's team captain, Sally Gunnell, will be running the trials despite a severe wobble last weekend when she contemplated retirement after suffering her third successive defeat in the space of six days. "I am disappointed with my recent form," Gunnell said. "But I have a new laid-back approach and I am determined to enjoy myself. I want to be back with the best, but I have to acknowledge that I have had two years out through injury and the event has moved on quite a bit in that time. If things happen, they happen. But I want to enjoy it - it could be my last chance."

Gunnell faces little opposition in her bid to qualify for a fifth World Championships and acknowledges that the event is a weak link in British athletics. Despite this, Gunnell believes, British athletics is on a high, with recent individual performances and the European Cup successes giving plenty of hope for August's World Championships.

"We were unlucky in Atlanta," she said. "We had a good amount of silver and bronzes, but we needed that final push for a gold. I think this year luck may be on our side. Things are going really well at the moment, but I think we could have a fantastic time in Athens."

The British Athletic Federation has pulled out of the bidding for the 2001 World Championships because of the delay in redeveloping Wembley stadium. Britain will bid instead for the 2003 championships.

Henman faces busy weekend

Tennis

Tim Henman has been given the task of playing three matches when Britain's Davis Cup team face Ukraine in the Euro/Africa Group One tie which begins in Kiev today.

The British captain, David Lloyd, will play Henman and Greg Rusedski in the singles, as expected, but has also included Henman in the doubles with Neil Broad.

Henman and Broad were silver medalists in the Atlanta Olympics and Lloyd knows the result of the tie may depend on the doubles, with the pair up against Andrei Medvedev and

Dimitri Poljakov. Medvedev, the Ukrainian No 1 ranked 19 in the world, is a clay court specialist and, on paper, should beat both Henman and Rusedski in the singles on that surface.

But Britain should win both singles against Ukrainian No 2, Andrei Rybakov, who is not in the world's top 200. So Lloyd has put in his best doubles team for what may prove the vital rubber tomorrow.

When the draw was made yesterday, Lloyd was delighted. Under the current rules the two No 1s play on the last day, Sunday, although Lloyd was anxious Henman should play Rybakov first today before Medvedev plays Rusedski.

Lloyd said: "If Tim can give us a winning start it will take some of the pressure off Greg, who has a difficult match against Medvedev."

If Britain win this tie they will remain in Euro/Africa Group One, but should they lose they will have to meet Hungary at home in September for the right to stay in the section.

Defeat against Hungary would see them relegated to Euro/Africa Group Two, but Lloyd is confident Britain can beat Ukraine and make a Hungarian tie irrelevant.

But, even if the worst happened and Britain were beaten in Kiev, they should have no problems against a weak Hungarian team, especially as Britain would be at home and would have choice of surface.

DRUGS (For Davis Cup tie between Ukraine and Great Britain in Euro/Africa Group One, Kiev, today: T Henman v A Rybakov, S Broad v A Medvedev, T Henman v A Rybakov, S Broad v A Medvedev and D Poljakov, Steve Backley v Medvedev, Rusedski v Poljakov.)

Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline dropped out of the Swiss Open in Gstaad yesterday, retiring from his second-round match against Alex Corretja because of a sore right arm. Pioline was trailing the second-seeded Spaniard 6-2 3-2 when he withdrew. "My arm just doesn't feel like holding a racket right now," said the Frenchman, who twice received treatment during changeovers.

It attracts a wide range of size, age and competence, but at the top end it is the boats that are raced regularly that have won through, despite the difficulties of producing an accurate handicapping system.

Second overall was Chris Jago's 44-foot Flamboyant, with Stephen James' 40-foot Jacobite third.

Class made to count by Robinson

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

It was a hard-fought five-day battle at the Swan European Regatta with the top prize going to Terry Robinson, Commodore of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, in his 48-footer Assuage.

Yesterday's final race for the 51-foot Cowes fleet was staged in brilliant sunshine, a gentle easterly breeze, and all the vagaries which strong Solent tides can offer.

Robinson, who in three weeks' time hosts the unremittent professional Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup, sees the Swan Regatta, exclusively for that manufacturer's product, as closer to the second-tier Commodore's Cup in standard.

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Antipodeans put the future of Paris in peril

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Paris St-Germain will go into the pivotal weekend of their short existence with a cloud of uncertainty over their future.

The authorities in France are looking into allegations that the club's Australian and New Zealand players have been travelling in and out of the country without work permits and that the club has not made tax payments on their behalf.

The Rugby Football League - in whose European Super League Paris play - said yesterday that the club's treasurer was discussing the matter with the French authorities.

Harry Jepson, a member of the RFL's board of directors and - along with Maurice Lindsay - an advisory director of Paris, said: "I don't know what's going to happen now. Paris's existence is in the hands of our clubs and they could ask whether it is all worth it."

"I still think it is, but others might not agree. The best thing we could do in the meantime

is to beat Wigan on Saturday." Paris's gates have declined from more than 17,000 for their inaugural game against Sheffield last season to a few hundred for recent games.

"We have proved that we can attract good crowds when everyone is pulling together, but that has not been happening recently," Jepson said. The League believes that disgruntled former employees could be behind the club's latest problems.

Scotland's cautious international progress should not be set back by their late defeat by France in Glasgow this week, according to their coach, George Fairbairn. "It's very disappointing to lose because of what the referee later admitted was a mistake on his part, but there were a lot of good things in the performance," he said.

"What we need now is more games in Scotland." League officials who attended the match at Patrick Thistle's Firhill Park will recommend that a Super League fixture be staged at the ground next season.

Castleford are likely to be without two key players for their relegation showdown with Oldham tonight. Their prop forward, Dean Sampson, was suspended for one match yesterday, after being sent off after the end of their match against Bradford for punching, while their scrum-half, Mike Ford, is struggling to recover from a hamstring injury.

Paul Cullen, the Warrington player-coach, is to retire as a player after being told that he needs a full major operation on the same knee.

Australia's Test full-back Brett Mullins, has pulled out of Canberra Raiders' trip to England for the return games in the Visa World Club Championship. Mullins has been given permission to miss the matches against Wigan, Hull and London, because his passport is expecting their second test.

Halifax, who conceded 24 points during their disastrous visit Down Under, are now admission prices for the game against Wigan, Hull and London, because his passport is expecting their second test.

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CHESTER (B)	12.1	985	
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Redgrave and Pinsent can capitalise

Rowing

HUGH MATHEWSON

Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent will race this weekend in their new combination, the coxless four with Tim Foster and James Cracknell, in the yellow jerseys as leaders entering the third and final round of the Fisa Cuscar World Cup in Lucerne.

Their successors in the coxless pair, Ben Hunt-Davis and Bobbie Fitcher, also lead their competition, by one point from Croatia. The rest of the British team starts the regatta in overall second place, but most will be concerned to secure selection for the World Championships in France in September.

Three single scullers from Britain are on the fringe of the top group. Guin Batten, fifth in Atlanta, came out from Henley after losing in the final of the Princess Royal Cup. Greg Searle, new to the single, gained experience in four side by side races at Henley and looked better than he has on the Continental circuit in the summer. Jane Hall is in the lightweight single after failing to make the Olympics in the double scull last year.

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Eyes closed and thinking of England

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWITT
reports from Sydney

The jet-lag kicked in with a vengeance yesterday as England sleep-walked their way through their penultimate training session before tomorrow's one-off Test - some would call it an ambush - in Sydney. "I managed nine hours sleep on Wednesday night so I've cracked it," said Phil de Glanville, the captain. "But it's different for the Lions who flew in from South Africa. They really are suffering."

Heigh-ho, there you go. Just as the Lions re-establish some sort of credibility for northern hemisphere champions by beating the world champions on their own grasslands, England arrive underbaked and under-prepared for an oddball match with the Wallabies that looks as ill-fated as it is ill-conceived. Never less than honest, De Glanville made a sharp point or three as he weighed up his chances of becoming the first red rose skipper to venture Down Under and win.

"It's not an unfair match, exactly; international rugby is where the money stands to be made and we all appreciate that fact," he said. "But I've said to the Rugby Football Union that

we'd like to be given at least a reasonable chance to be at our best in big matches like this, to have the odds stacked in our favour as far as is possible. Quite obviously, that is not the case on this occasion."

He could have said that over and over again. Nor only were the vast majority of the side visibly suffering from the effects of long-haul travel yesterday, they were also required to drive for the best part of an hour in search of a training pitch that did not resemble a community refuse facility. And to add insult to injury, they were once again forced to prepare in the absence of Dave Alred, the most successful kicking coach in world rugby.

England's reluctance to draw Alred into the fold now borders on the embarrassing, especially in the light of his achievements with the Lions. The series against the Springboks was primarily through the right boot of Neil Jenkins, who accounted for 41 of the 59 points scored by the tourists over the three Tests; indeed, the Welshman finished the 13-match tour with a strike rate of 76 per cent and did not miss a single intended kick to touch.

More to the point at issue, Tim Stimpson, the England full-back, matched Jenkins virtu-



England Lions Graham Rowntree (centre) and Tim Rodber (right) in training yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

ally kick for kick, emerging with a success ratio of 73 per cent. This from a player who had not taken aim at the posts in anger since leaving West Hartlepool for Newcastle in the summer of last year. No wonder the South Africans, who suffered every last kick at goal in the decisive Durban Test, are offering Alred a Springbok contract.

"He should be involved with us," admitted Jack Rowell, the England coach, who is now finding it increasingly difficult

to disguise his exasperation at the RFU's apparent suspicion of Alred's methods. "I think we've now reached the stage where the situation needs to be sorted. I've put a high value on Dave's services since we worked together at Bath some years ago and I haven't changed my view on the subject. We talk about this pretty regularly and I'm expectant that the reluctance is about to disappear for the good of English rugby. He's a must, as far as I'm concerned."

In which case, the RFU should get a move on. Their counterparts in South Africa are clearly serious about buying Alred in and now that he has completed a one-year contract with Newcastle, the world is his oyster. Ironically enough, the Australians have made more use of his expertise than any other international set-up and if Matt Burke outkicks Stimpson tomorrow, certain members of the England hierarchy will spend most of the

evening scrubbing egg yolks from their faces.

Tony Underwood, the Newcastle wing carried off during the first half of last weekend's Lions Test in Johannesburg, was still feeling the effects of his hip injury yesterday and did not train. "He's more than a slight doubt, but we'll see how he improves over the next few hours," said De Glanville. Nick Beal, the versatile Northampton back, would be the most likely replacement.

Goosen strikes gold on Carat

Equestrianism
GENEVIEVE MURPHY
reports from Hickstead

Guy Goosen was an appropriate winner at The Royal International Horse Show yesterday when he rode Carat, one of the horses he purchased from Paul Schockemöhle, to victory.

Schockemöhle became the saviour of this show when it was threatened with cancellation this year, so the success of one of his former horses was welcome. The 23-year-old Goosen has a further connection with the German entrepreneur and former European show jumping champion: his sister, Mandy, has been riding Schockemöhle's young horses for the past two and a half years.

Goosen was last but one to jump in the Royal International Chase and he succeeded, by just 0.11sec, in defeating the time set by Germany's Heinrich Engemann on Edgar.

Schockemöhle's new connection with Hickstead has brought a tangible sense of optimism for this - and future - shows. "Paul is such a professional person, everything he touches turns to gold," Goosen said.

Douglas Bunn, the owner of

Hickstead, will be hoping that these words are prophetic. He and his new German partner expect to run two shows here next year, the Royal International and the British Jumping Derby.

"We will probably have the Nations Cup back," Schockemöhle said of the team contest, which was held at the Royal Windsor Horse Show this year. "We will have to try to find a friendly way to have this class at the Royal International."

Negotiations may, however, be less than friendly since the Windsor committee expect to retain the Nations Cup.

The Hickstead organisers have experienced the havoc caused by the loss of a major sponsor (in particular Silk Cut who pulled out last December), so they will be aiming to attract a number of supporting firms for each meeting. Bunn is also hoping that the Sports Council will at last support his splendid showground which, according to Schockemöhle, "has a character you find nowhere else".

Whereas Goosen won by a split second, Peter Charles (Ireland's reigning European champion) had a commanding advantage of 6.92sec when he won the later Royal International July Stakes on the French-bred T Alme.

Sussex start their clear-out of players

Cricket

Newport, 34, made his debut in 1982 and has taken more than 1,000 wickets.

Dave Gilbert, the Surrey manager, is calling for the 2nd XI Championship to be scrapped in its current format. Gilbert wants the number of games reduced and matches to be extended from three to four days.

The Australian, who will lead Surrey into Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup final against Kent, believes the current system is of little benefit.

Gilbert said: "To play 17 three-day 2nd XI Championship matches each season is a joke and as the competition stands at present it should be scrapped."

"Three-day cricket no longer exists at first-team level and it is still a continuous at second-team level. It often leads to uncricket finishes and that doesn't teach anyone anything."

NATHAN TROPHY Quarter-final: Essex v Gloucestershire; Essex v Derbyshire; Essex v Somerset; Essex v Warwickshire. Matches to be played Tuesday, 29 July.

Sussex have started trimming their squad by releasing batsman Toby Radford and pace bowler Martin Thurstfield. Their contracts, due to expire at the end of the season, have been paid up.

Radford, 25, joined Sussex 13 months ago after two years with Middlesex but has made only five Championship appearances, scoring 34 runs.

Thurstfield, also 25, spent five years with Hampshire before joining Sussex in the close season but has played in only two first-class games.

Tony Pigott, the chief executive, said: "We felt neither player was ever going to be a regular in the first team and they have the opportunity now to find another county during the season."

Worcestershire have awarded the former England seamer Phil Newport a benefit in 1998.

Ivor Allchurch dies at 67

Football

Ivor Allchurch has died at his Swansea home, aged 67. The former Newcastle United, Cardiff City and Swansea Town striker made 694 league appearances, scoring 251 goals.

Nicknamed "The Golden Boy", his international career began against England at Roker Park in 1951 and ended

against Chile in Santiago in 1966.

Allchurch scored 23 goals for Wales in 68 appearances, both records in their time. Joey Jones (72 caps) beat his appearance record in 1986.

An inside-forward with superb ball control he was one of the key members of the Welsh team who reached the 1958 World Cup finals in Sweden. He was awarded the MBE in 1966.

Seconds out for the ballroom knife fight

The silver service at London's Hilton Hotel may find itself being used in the ballroom rather than the dining room this evening as delegates gather for what could prove to be Rugby Football Union's night of the long knives.

If last year's annual meeting was a stormy enough affair then this year's could reach hurricane force after 12 months of the sport's equivalent of global warming. There is a growing feeling among the membership that Twickenham has over-reached itself and that the power base needs shifting a touch nearer the game's roots.

It is unlikely that there will be any casualties at tonight's meeting, but the repercussions, ramifications and aftershocks could account for a few bodies and reputations over the next few months.

It is unlikely that one of those will be millionaire Cliff Brittle, the 55-year-old former equipment hire company chairman. He has been chairman of the now defunct executive committee, during which time he has been a lone voice against such things as the RFU's negotiations with BSkyB for rights to broadcast all England home matches, including their Five Nations

games, as well as the demands by the senior clubs for a degree of autonomy to run their own game. He is standing for election to the newly created management board, which will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the game in England.

Brittle, who has the backing of the recently formed RFU Reform Group, whose membership includes the former England captain and RFU committee member, Bill Beaumont, is opposed by the establishment nominee, Bob Rogers, a 53-year-old solicitor from Worcester.

David Llewellyn sets the scene for today's battle over who runs rugby

It is a racing certainty that Brittle will win the day.

But if the election itself is a hot enough issue, it is nothing to what could be generated by item 10 of an 11-item agenda. Sturdily, and crucially from a legal standpoint, it states: "To consider business of which due notice has been given..."

In total there are 10 topics, the chief of which are a handful aimed at curbing the power

of the acting chief executive, currently the RFU secretary Tony Hallett, who has been appointed pro tem, the position to be reviewed in October.

South Liverpool RUFC is proposing to account full authority to the chairman of the management board (which should be Brittle) to represent the union in all matters and that he shall oversee the chief executive (Hallett, temporarily at least).

But yet another motion, proposed by Manchester FC calls for the post of chief executive to be advertised and the appointment made by a selection panel containing independent people in addition to RFU management board officers.

Perhaps anticipating failure with the above, the Manchester club has a second proposal to follow its first, that the chief executive shall report to and work under the authority of the chairman of the management board.

Unfortunately for the Reformists and for Brittle none of

the above are legally binding. The RFU has had them checked out and will not be obliged to carry out the wishes of the 2,200 member clubs and constituent bodies even if the proposals were to receive unanimous approbation.

However, it would be a foolish thing to ignore them completely, particularly demands to justify legal expenditure of £50,000 in the year 1995-96, and a similar one calling for justification of PR guru Sir Tim Bell's 12-month contract at £20,000 per month.

And it would be positively suicidal were they to dismiss a further proposal calling for "a full independent inquiry into the manner in which the Union conducts its business, with particular reference to the way in which commercial contracts are awarded and in which senior staff appointments are made..."

The implications of the request are certainly unpleasant, but nothing like as bad as they would be were the management board to refuse to set up such an investigation. That would suggest they had something to hide. Legally, they may be in the clear. Morally, they would not and then the knives would be out for sure.

and the top 24 clubs, who wanted to run their game independently while still remaining part of the union. Brittle and his supporters battled long and hard to prevent this.

Elsewhere, a deal was struck between the RFU and BSkyB for exclusive coverage of all England's home Tests for five years from 1998. This caused temporary expulsion of England from the Five Nations' Championship.

The RFU Reform Group was formed containing notables such as the former England cap-

How professionalism sparked two-year civil war

It began in August 1995 when the International Rugby Football Board, the worldwide game's governing body, decreed that the sport should go open, or in other words, professional.

The game was divided in England over the issue. The division of views led, for one reason or another, to three special general meetings in 14 months.

At the first SGM, ostensibly to debate the issue of professionalism, Cliff Brittle - champion of the anti-professionalism lobby (the grassroots of the

2,000-plus membership) was elected as chairman of the executive committee. At the second SGM the principle of professionalism was accepted by the grassroots.

The third SGM in March saw the membership retain the right to elect future chairmen of the management board - which will replace the executive committee - contrary to moves by Twickenham.

Throughout all this a rancorous split developed, which only ended at the beginning of the year, between the RFU

and the top 24 clubs, who wanted to run their game independently while still remaining part of the union. Brittle and his supporters battled long and hard to prevent this.

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The RFU Reform Group was formed containing notables such as the former England cap-

tain Bill Beaumont, and they have been questioning the integrity of certain RFU officers and committee members. The Reformists are backing Brittle against the RFU's Bob Rogers in today's election to the chair of the management board.

Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary who has been a particular focus of attack by the Brittle camp, becomes chief executive from today, but only in an acting capacity. His performance will be reviewed in October at which point the job may be advertised.

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However, it would be a foolish thing to ignore them completely, particularly demands to justify legal expenditure of £50,000 in the year 1995-96, and a similar one calling for justification of PR guru Sir Tim Bell's 12-month contract at £20,000 per month.

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Payback for Thomas
British 400 metres hope talks to
Mike Rowbottom, page 28

sport

Valiant Vasseur
New yellow jersey for the
Tour de France, page 26

Wright fined £15,000 for misconduct

Football
ALAN NIXON

The Arsenal striker Ian Wright was yesterday fined £15,000 – one of the largest financial punishments ever handed out to a player by the Football Association – for misconduct on the field.

The FA decided on the fine, rather than another lengthy ban for the volatile England international, at a hearing at a Hertfordshire hotel yesterday afternoon.

Wright, 33, was accompanied by his manager, Arsène Wenger, at the FA Commission disciplinary meeting, where he was answering charges relating to Arsenal matches at home to Blackburn on 19 April and away to Coventry two days later.

The much-publicised incidents centred on remarks made by Wright to the referee on the first occasion and gestures to the crowd on the second. The FA's director of public affairs, David Davies, announced the fine in a prepared statement yesterday evening.

Liverpool concern over Murphy injury

ALAN NIXON

Danny Murphy's move from Crewe Alexandra to Liverpool was held up yesterday after medical examinations revealed an old knee ligament injury.

The midfielder had his A-field unwell postponed after checks indicated some damage to both knees from an earlier stage of his career.

Talks between the clubs went on during the day with Crewe pointing out that Murphy has been a regular in their side for the past three or four years and has never encountered any problems.

The £1.5m down payment plus another £3m in instalments may have to be altered to take the discovery into consideration and there is also the question of whether Murphy's knees can be insured. However, the signs from both clubs are that the deal will still go ahead.

Paul Ince also made a visit to Liverpool to assure the club he wants to join them, despite reports to the contrary. The England midfielder will speak to Internazionale today to inform them he wants to leave.

He said: "The Commission made it absolutely clear to Ian Wright that he could expect no sympathy whatsoever if he appeared before them again in similar and proven circumstances. The severest of penalties that would remove him from the game for a very long time would be inevitable."

Meanwhile Wenger has turned down a £1m bid for centre-back Scott Marshall from the former Arsenal No 2 and caretaker manager, Stewart Houston, who is now in charge at Queen's Park Rangers.

Wenger has told QPR he wants £1.5m for the Scotland Under-21 defender who was one of seven players made available at Highbury this week.

Marshall's first-team chances will be limited this season because of Wenger's signings and he is going into the last year of his contract. Houston wants Marshall to follow him across London and may make a second attempt to persuade Wenger to sell.

Bolton yesterday strengthened their strike force for next season by signing the Icelandic international Arnar Gunnlaugsson for £100,000 from IA of Akranes.

The 23-year-old striker, who has also had spells with Dutch side Feyenoord and French club Sochaux, joins his compatriot Gudni Bergsson at the Premiership newcomers.

Peter Ndlovu's move to Birmingham has fallen through after the Coventry winger failed a medical. The clubs had agreed a £1.75m deal but the 24-year-old Zimbabwean international will now return to Highfield Road.

Blackburn have agreed to sell Paul Warhurst to Crystal Palace for £1.5m. The out-of-contract utility player is expected to have talks with Palace over the next few days.

Colin Hendry is struggling to get fit for the start of the season. Blackburn's Scottish international defender is involved in an extensive rehabilitation programme following a groin operation earlier this summer.

Jimmy Quinn is reviving his playing career at the age of 38 after failing to return to management following his departure from Reading. The former Northern Ireland striker has held talks with Peterborough and one of his old clubs, Bournemouth, about returning to action.

Andy Gray, the former Tottenham and Crystal Palace midfielder, is ending his two-year stay in Scotland by signing for Bury. The Falkirk midfielder, man of the match in the Scottish Cup final in May, will team up again with manager Stan Ternent, who was his coach at Palace.

The West Ham captain, Julian Dicks, could miss the start of the season and be out for up to four months owing to a knee injury. Dicks had an operation at the end of last season, but is still having problems and has not yet started training.

Ronaldo's controversial transfer from Barcelona to Internazionale will be discussed by the governing body of the world game, Fifa, on 22 July. Fifa's Player's Status Committee will also examine an equally contentious move by French international defender Bixente Lizarazu from Athletic Bilbao to Bayern Munich.

Substitute goalkeeper Maikel Aerts of Second Division side FC Den Bosch has become the first player in the history of Dutch football to fail a drugs test. The player's urine sample showed traces of cocaine following a random test on 17 May 17 after Den Bosch's game with Dordrecht '90. Aerts was not playing in the match.

BRITISH GRAND PRIX: Arrows chief says his leading driver must do better



Rivalry renewed: Damon Hill (right), the world champion, and Michael Schumacher meet at Silverstone yesterday

Photograph: Emptis

Walkinshaw's warning to Hill

DERICK ALLSOP
reports from Silverstone

Damon Hill has come home to a few home truths. He arrived for Sunday's British Grand Prix here to the full realisation of how far his world had turned since the heady days of his championship success.

Bad enough that he had to sit alongside Michael Schumacher, his nemesis and Jacques Villeneuve, his former team-mate at Williams-Renault, as they considered their prospects in this race and the title contest. Worst still for his image and negotiating position was a public warning from his boss, Tom Walkinshaw, to get his act together and perform like a world champion.

For half a season Hill has been basking in sympathy and his Arrows-Yamaha team ridiculed for failing to provide him with the equipment befitting a man of his status. Walkinshaw has patently had enough and feels it is high time Hill took his share of the blame for a campaign that has yet to yield a point.

Hill has indicated he will seek another team if he is not convinced Arrows can produce a competitive car next season.

Walkinshaw wishes it to be known he requires proof that Hill, who is being paid £4.5m for this year, is worth retaining.

Walkinshaw decided it was time to "be blunt" with Hill after seeing his No 1 driver career across the gravel on the first lap of the French Grand Prix 12 days ago. He spelled out his demands for the second half of the season in "a chat" with Hill and told him he could no longer accept excuses about diminishing motivation.

"By his own admission he's gone to sleep and he's acknowledged it's been difficult for him to drive himself," Walkinshaw said. "We will see how he performs in the second half of the year."

"I don't believe a professional should have any difficulty keeping up his motivation. We signed one of the best two or three drivers in the world to drive the team and provide the motivation – not the other way round."

"Damon has been struggling to get himself into gear, but that is what we are paying him for. Drivers are paid to do a job in the motor car and they have to do deliver."

"Any professional is as good as his last race. If you want to be in a better position you should be trying 110 per cent to show others they should want you. If the money doesn't motivate him then the fear of failure should."

The non-performance has been pretty evenly split. 50-50, between team and driver. We've made a lot of silly mistakes and we've got to stop it. It's my responsibility to treat Damon and talk to him like any other member of the team.

"I tried the subtle approach, now it's time to be blunt. In France we had one driver off on the first lap, the other spinning. Do me a favour! "It's an application problem. Maybe we were all too comfortable with each other. I've got to get him back on the boil. For his sake and mine, it's better something should be said. It's for me to help him, not drop him in it. We both know he's capable of better and we'll support him 100 per cent."

Walkinshaw cites lap times to demonstrate that Hill is being matched by his No 2, the much maligned Brazilian, Pedro Diniz. There could scarcely be a more painful blow to the champion's pride.

Jordan's success in the bidding for Mugen-Honda engines next season has been interpreted as a serious setback for Arrows, but Walkinshaw maintains he is satisfied with his plans in that department and expects to make an announcement at the end of next month. "Things will be better next year," he insisted.

Hill, meanwhile, was still talking of his frustration. He said: "I got used to seeing my name at the top or near the top of the timesheets. Now I have to scroll down to page two to find it and that saps your oomph. So it's difficult, that I should push harder to make sure I don't slip further."

The Englishman, 37 in September, is adamant he still has another championship in him, given the opportunity. He has been linked with McLaren, Benetton, Prost, Sauber, and even Williams, but appears no nearer a deal and is unlikely to command such a huge return next year.

"When you've won 21 races and the championship, you don't want to settle for second best. You want more. I don't tend to stay in the wings. One how has performed centre stage knows the need to be there. That's where I need to be," Hill said.

Whatever Hill's problems in that department and expects to make an announcement at the end of next month. "Things will be better next year," he insisted.

Hill said: "We wouldn't be human if we didn't feel a little satisfaction in such circumstances. I think what Williams' difficulties show is that it's not easy to win grands prix as it looks."

So how does he see the rest of his championship panning out this season? With both Schumacher and Villeneuve listening intently he settled for a diplomatic line: "I would say it's events."

Villeneuve's challenge, page 26

RFU embarrassed by Rowell speculation

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWITT
reports from Sydney

Confusion is reigning once again and the Rugby Football Union, already staring down both barrels of the Cliff Brittle shotgun at today's annual general meeting, are likely to get a severe soaking. Less than 48 hours before England's desperately difficult one-off Test with Australia here, the beleaguered Twickenham power-brokers have contrived to undermine Jack Rowell's position as national coach in the most embarrassing possible circumstances.

Derek Morgan, chairman of the national playing committee, yesterday vehemently denied reports that Rowell was about to be replaced by Graham Henry, the tactical mastermind from New Zealand whose Auckland side claimed their second successive Super 12 title last month. At the same time, Don Rutherford, the RFU's technical director, was admitting holding talks with Henry, although he stressed that neither a formal job description nor a firm offer had been offered.

In the midst of all the shenanigans, Rowell was looking increasingly isolated, not to say bemused. His coaching contract does not expire until 31 August and understandably, he was not in the best of moods when Rutherford arrived in Sydney for tomorrow's Cook Cup match with the Wallabies.

Rutherford insisted his talks with Henry and a second senior Auckland coach, Maurice Trapp, had been merely exploratory. "We are looking to strengthen our coaching set-up," he said. "England have a good many representative sides and there may be any number of roles available."

Whether that was sufficient to mollify Rowell remained a moot point. In a desperate attempt at damage limitation the RFU last night issued a statement on Rutherford's behalf. "A professional game needs the best people involved," Rutherford was reported to have said. "Some will be English and some will not... but at the present time I do not believe the English culture is ready for a non-English coach."

Morgan was equally insistent that Rowell's position remained secure, if only in the shortest of short terms. "No one has been asked or authorised to make an approach to any other coach," he said, prompting the question as to why Rutherford had been in New Zealand in the first place. "No formal discussion of or decision on the coaching position will take place until the team and management return from Australia." As a denial, it was barely worth the effort. Henry has admitted receiving approaches from "outside New Zealand" and as England return home on Monday morning, developments could be extremely swift.

The most successful coach in the history of English club rugby, Rowell's record at international level also bears comparison with the best. But his reluctance to turn his back on business interests to take up the reins on a full-time basis leaves him vulnerable to the demands of the new professional age. Rowell believes he can square the circle, but the weight of influential opinion is against him.

Back in January, the RFU were forced to deny allegations of a plot to sideline their coach before the Five Nations' Championship. This time, they will have to work doubly hard to reassure Rowell that he retains the faith of his employers.

Thinking of England, page 29

Tyson vows to return 'in 1998'

Boxing

If there were ever any doubts that Mike Tyson intends to box again, he dispelled them yesterday when he stated his determination to be back in the ring, possibly as early as next year, after having his licence revoked by the Nevada Athletic Commission

for biting Evander Holyfield's ears in a World Boxing Association title bout on 28 June.

But the British Boxing Board of Control believes that a year out of the sport would amount to little more than a slap on the wrist.

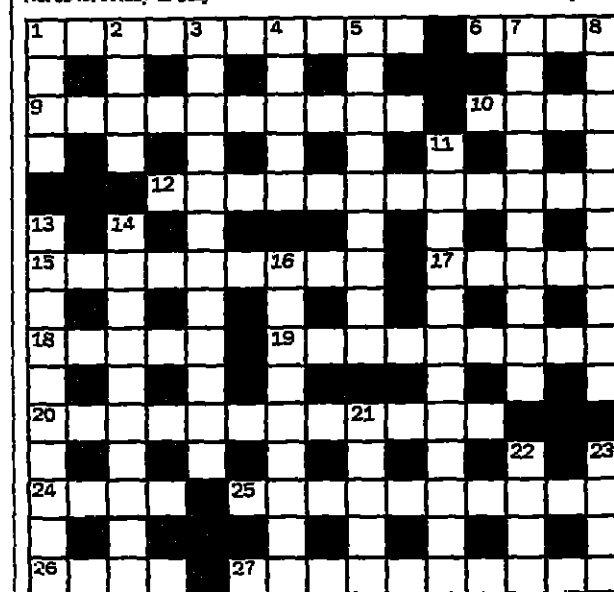
Simon Block, assistant general secretary of the BBBC, said: "The acid test will be at what stage the Nevada Commission feel able to grant Mike Tyson a licence and I believe that if it is in a year's time there will be a feeling of disappointment around the boxing world."

This was a major incident in a world heavyweight championship contest and a year out for a professional boxer is not a long time.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3348, Friday 11 July

By Phil



Thursday's solution
Across: 1. COMPARTMENTALISATION, 2. PUNY, 3. ASH, 4. SLEAZEBAG, 5. SHED, 6. SLEAZEBAG, 7. SLEAZEBAG, 8. SLEAZEBAG, 9. SLEAZEBAG, 10. SLEAZEBAG, 11. SLEAZEBAG, 12. SLEAZEBAG, 13. SLEAZEBAG, 14. SLEAZEBAG, 15. SLEAZEBAG, 16. SLEAZEBAG, 17. SLEAZEBAG, 18. SLEAZEBAG, 19. SLEAZEBAG, 20. SLEAZEBAG, 21. SLEAZEBAG, 22. SLEAZEBAG, 23. SLEAZEBAG.
Down: 1. SLEAZEBAG, 2. SLEAZEBAG, 3. SLEAZEBAG, 4. SLEAZEBAG, 5. SLEAZEBAG, 6. SLEAZEBAG, 7. SLEAZEBAG, 8. SLEAZEBAG, 9. SLEAZEBAG, 10. SLEAZEBAG, 11. SLEAZEBAG, 12. SLEAZEBAG, 13. SLEAZEBAG, 14. SLEAZEBAG, 15. SLEAZEBAG, 16. SLEAZEBAG, 17. SLEAZEBAG, 18. SLEAZEBAG, 19. SLEAZEBAG, 20. SLEAZEBAG, 21. SLEAZEBAG, 22. SLEAZEBAG, 23. SLEAZEBAG.

- ACROSS**
- What makes chap successfully mature without problems? (11)
 - Contemptible creature backed masculine argument (4)
 - No laser in this US city, apparently (3,7)
 - Incline to be free of stolen goods, and not caught (4)
 - Dubiously handsome lot snatching Queen – who's then this? (4,2,6)
 - One's not willing to be automatically of benefit to them (4,2,3)
 - Runs nearly everything behind sport in the country (5)
 - Dislike to accept second in race (5)
 - Many supporters – I had to get in vehicle and remain standing around (9)
- DOWN**
- Mischief making's beginning in times (4)
 - Nothing currently has it (4)
 - Paradise that was once found in Downing Street? (6,2,4)
 - Advanced teacher taking the lead (5)
 - Lord of the manor has most of path – a depressing fact (9)
 - Expect too much of deliveries by rail? (10)
 - Modern composer has note on a register (10)
 - Northern fortification experienced crumbling in wars over friendly state, mostly (8,4)
 - Not a term applied to malfunctioning eyelids? (2,3,5)
 - Chop up various trees and a piano in anger (10)
 - Excitement over sharp action to operate motor-cycle (4,5)
 - Graduate detected in falsehood that turns up in modern communication (1,4)
 - Mother's abandoning the dog? That should cause a row (4)
 - Puts a stop to scraps (4)

HEY GOOD LOOKIN'!

REMEMBER when you first came into our lives. Your character and charm was obvious from the start. We'll love you forever. Best Wishes John, Bill, James, Ted, Frank, Joe & Don the Landlord.

FOUNDERS
FLAVOUR WORTH FINDING